FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 DECEMBER 1984

ICO Foreign Ministers' Conference in Sanaa

The communique issued by the ICO foreign ministers at the end of the conference, broadcast by Sanaa radio, noted their decision to call on Iran and Iraq to "totally and sincerely cooperate" with the ICO peace committee in order to immediately end the Gulf war and resolve the conflict on a "just and honorable" basis. The conference also appealed to both sides to pay due consideration to the rules of Islamic law and the Geneva Convention on POW's and to the Geneva protocol on chemical weapons. Both agreed to this resolution and the Iraqi delegation leader announced that his country will adhere to it in letter and spirit, the communique added.

However, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz subsequently accused Iran of tricking the conference by pretending to agree to the resolution on the war in order to avoid a "stronger" resolution, but then disavowing it, according to INA. The disavowal referred to by 'Aziz was contained in Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's press conference, reported by IRNA, in which he stated that Iran will not agree to a negotiated settlement while the present Iraqi regime remains in power, adding that Iran will only heed that part of the ICO resolution on the war which addresses the two countries in an "identical" tone. Conference sources cited by KUNA explained that Velayati's reservations about the resolution were directed against the paragraph "praising" Iraq. The resolution, which was carried by INA, had taken note of Iraq's agreement to cooperate with the ICO peace committee. This was not mentioned in the conference final communique broadcast by Sanaa radio.

As for the Palestine question, which was described as the "primary issue" facing Muslims, the communique stressed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, adding that UN Resolution 242 is "incompatible" with Palestinian rights and is not a sound basis for resolving the problem. The conference stressed that no Arab side should individually attempt to solve this conflict and emphasized the need to nullify the Camp David accords and "any initiative" stemming from them. This resolution "opposing the expansion of Camp David" was one of the proposals submitted by Iran, Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati disclosed in a Tehran radio interview.

Among the other issues mentioned in the final communique, the conference expressed concern over Afghan violations of Pakistani territory, noting the Pakistani Government's "self-restraint" toward these "provocative" actions. The conference also denounced all forms of international terrorism, urging ICO member states not to submit to demands made by aircraft hijackers. On organizational matters, the final communique noted that the conference had unanimously elected Pakistani Attorney General Sharifuddin Pirzada to succeed Habib Chatti as ICO secretary general starting in 1985.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri questioned the effectiveness of the conference in an Amman radio interview, asserting that its resolutions are mere "ink on paper" which will not be followed up by the ICO Secretariat and which are unlikely to have any influence in the international arena.

Gulf War

Fires aboard two tankers hit in Iraqi air attacks on 21 December were brought under control as the ships were towed out of the war zone over the weekend, according to shipping sources cited by the *GULF DAILY NEWS*. Two crewmen of the smaller, Liberian-registered vessel were killed, the paper said, but there were no casualties aboard the larger ship, a Norwegian supertanker, which was hit shortly after loading with Iranian crude oil at Khark Island. Iraq's "devastating" raid on the two "large maritime targets" was announced in the Iraqi military communique for 21 December, broadcast by Baghdad radio.

Lebanon

Despite the continuing violence, the Military Council approved the security plan for the coastal road and the Al-Kharrub area during a 23 December meeting held in a "positive atmosphere" and attended by representatives of all parties concerned, according to sources cited by the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio. After further discussion of the plan, the Cabinet will fix 27 or 28 December as the date for implementation, the radio added.

OPEC Conference in Geneva

The OPEC oil ministers suspended their talks on 21 December for 6 days pending consultations with their respective governments on a proposal to increase OPEC's supervision of oil production by its member countries, IRNA reported. Iran will support the proposal for a more powerful monitoring committee, according to remarks by the Iranian oil minister cited by the agency. The Iranian Oil Ministry subsequently issued a statement, reported by Tehran radio, urging OPEC states to support the proposal and warning that failure to do so will lead to a price war in which oil prices will fall to $15 per barrel.

Iranian Judiciary

The judiciary is an independent power which should be strengthened and no one should prevent implementation of judicial verdicts or create a hostile "climate" against them, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared in remarks broadcast by Tehran radio on 23 December.

Israel

The police are detaining six Gaza residents who have admitted planning to attack the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv on 2 December,

Jerusalem radio disclosed. Although the affair was publicized abroad recently, the authorities withheld publication of the incident inside Israel until 23 December, the radio noted.

Jordan

A 17 December clash between the Jordanian Army and a Palestinian dissident group attempting to carry out operations against the Israelis on the West Bank resulted in some casualties, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed, citing Palestinian sources. A spokesman for the dissidents warned Jordan of the consequences of such acts and threatened to strike at the Jordanian regime, the radio added.

In a separate development reported on Amman television, after arriving in Amman PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with King Husayn to discuss the Middle East and PLO-Jordanian coordination.

The king also met with a delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) which is currently visiting Jordan, Amman radio reported. Talks with the PLA delegation will concern possible Chinese arms supplies for Jordan, AFP said. China is ready to consider any Jordanian request for arms or military assistance, but so far the subject has not been broached, according to a Chinese official cited by *THE JORDAN TIMES*.

Mauritania

In a speech reported by Nouakchott radio, President Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya pronounced an amnesty for 69 political prisoners, including two former presidents and one prime minister. Furthermore, he declared that Mauritania will adopt an "open" policy toward the world, the radio noted.

Afghanistan

Border Protests — A DRA charge of cross-border fire from Pakistan into Konarha Province on 18 December was officially denied by Pakistan, Karachi radio reported. The DRA, on the other hand, rejected "vain and unfounded" Pakistani accusations of having violated Pakistani airspace on 25 and 29 November and 6 December, Kabul radio disclosed. In a further charge reported by Karachi radio, Pakistan protested an airspace violation by the DRA on 22 December.

Mujahidin Clashes — In Badghis and Herat Provinces, mujahidin killed 180 Soviet and DRA soldiers in a series of military operations, IRNA reported. Last week the mujahidin also broke the siege of western Herat, but in the DRA-Soviet forces' retaliatory shelling 117 civilians were killed, the agency disclosed.

Pakistan Referendum

The chief election commissioner announced that there was a 97.7 affirmative vote in support of President Ziaul Haq's Islamization program in the 19 December national referendum, with 21,750,757 of the 34,992,425 registered voters casting valid ballots, Karachi radio reported.

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Jordanian Army-Palestinian Dissidents Clash

NC230615 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The Palestinian news agency reported from Damascus that on Monday [17 December] the Jordanian Army clashed with a Palestinian dissident group that was trying to carry out operations against the Israelis in the West Bank. The agency added that the clash lasted approximately 90 minutes and that there were some casualties. A spokesman for the dissidents warned Jordan of the consequences of these acts, threatening it would strike at the Jordanian regime.

Palestinians Reportedly Return to West Beirut

NC221310 [Clandestine] Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] In West Beirut, reports indicate that considerable numbers of pro- and anti-'Arafat Palestinians are returning in batches to the Palestinian camps there. The pro-'Arafat Palestinians are trying to strengthen their position and military capabilities while the dissidents, aided by Syrian intelligence, are watching the latter and trying to prevent them from receiving more men and weapons.

It has been learned that Yasir 'Arafat is trying hard to return to Beirut by strengthening his followers and eliciting Sunni support. Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban is laying the groundwork for his comeback by opening offices for his Islamic Unification gunmen in West Beirut, including pro-'Arafat Palestinians among them.

Among the returning pro-'Arafat leaders, whose names were revealed, are: Major Abu al-Fath, Captain Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, Captain Abu Nidal al-'Ayni, Major Husayn al-Haybi, Samir Abu Ghazalah — nicknamed al-Hajj Tafal, and Abu Ahmad Sha'ban.

Meanwhile, Amal gunmen have been encircling the Burj al-Barajinah camp since this morning, following clashes during the night. Before 1300 today, gunfire was heard inside the camp as conflicting Palestinian groups clashed. It has been learned that Usamah ('Arasi) has been moving weapons from the Al-Biqa' valley to the camp during the past 2 days. The weapons were delivered to Ahmad Jibril gunmen.

Yasir 'Arafat Sends Message to PRC Premier

GF231730 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Zhao Ziyang, PRC premier of the State Council, has received a written message from Brother 'Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], dealing with the latest developments on the Palestinian and international arenas. The message was delivered by Brother 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member, during his meeting with Zhao Ziyang in Beijing on 22 December.

'Arafat Appoints Ex-Jerusalem Mayor Adviser

LD231426 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Amman, 23 Dec (KUNA) — The Jordanian newspaper *AD-DUSTUR* today reported that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, has decided to appoint Ruhi al-Khatib, the deported mayor of Jerusalem, as his personal adviser on the affairs of occupied Jerusalem.

UAE Daily Interviews PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

GF231430 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 Dec 84 p 5

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Dr Muhammad Anis, supervisor of the studies and research at the Center of Documents and Studies, in Abu Dhabi on 20 December]

[Excerpts] [Anis] We understand that we stand before a new Arab era. What are its phenomena and features in your opinion?

['Arafat] There is a very important point which is that the resolutions adopted during the PNC session stressed that we open our hearts and minds and stretch out our arms to our brothers in the Arab countries. This came in the resolutions at the time when a fierce campaign was being launched against us. The PNC was sublime in its treatment of this phenomenon by issuing a decision which opened the minds and hearts of us all. At the same time, it was not a coincidence that the Executive Committee left four seats for the independents whose circumstances prevented them from attending or for the organizations which believe in the independent national Palestinian decision.

Also when the Executive Committee held a meeting in Tunis recently during which the Central Council was formed, we left a number of seats vacant out of the spirit of the PNC. This is the new era which we see. I wish to point out at this point the most important meeting which took place outside the PNC meeting, and that was the meeting of all the Arab forces which attended the PNC and which came from an area extending from Morocco to the Gulf. This is a very important point and it bears a great significance.

[Anis] Brother Abu 'Ammar, have the contacts with the absent parties began in accordance with the PNC resolutions?

['Arafat] We formed a committee and the contacts have begun but from a position of conviction and not a position of hesitation and suspicion which they tried to impose and tried to impose its heavy shadow on the Palestinian march.

[Anis] With regard to the group of independents or the group so far known as the group of Ibrahim Bakr, have they been contacted?

['Arafat] Let us say that some of the parties which were called independent, the contacts with them were never stopped. Today, there was a contact between Juwayd al-Ghusayn and Khalid al-Fahum. Our policy stems from our will. We have resolutions in our PNC and we wait for no one to approve these decisions or

bless them. Today, I mentioned the expression "some people are looking for Abu" and the Abu of this revolution is the Palestinian people. What the Palestinian people want is what we follow, we don't have those who say yes or give something and then contradict themselves. This is not for the Palestinian revolution to be asked about.

[Anis] What does the Palestinian revolution want from the next summit conference?

['Arafat] An Arab stand at the minimum level at least, and that we preserve what we reached in Fes. I don't dream a lot but I want a minimum solidarity stand and that we preserve what we agreed upon in Fes.

[Anis] Will King Husayn's initiative be discussed in the summit conference?

[Arafat] Let us be accurate, let us ask: Is what King Husayn proposed an initiative or a conception of a move and not a political initiative? There is no political initiative. All there is "is an initiative for a political move," and a difference exists between the two. For instance, the seven-member committee is a decision of political move dependent on Fes. Then came the move proposed by King Husayn on basis of Resolution No 242 because Jordan recognizes this resolution. But it received with complete kindness our decision that we are committed not to recognize this resolution and that we are committed to the Fes resolution. And he said to us: I am with you in what you say. This was similar to what was said during his meeting with 'Abd al-Nasir [former Egyptian president]. King Husayn said: Syria and I recognize Resolution No 242; it is a weapon in our hands and not against us. Hence, he was openminded and agreed with the Palestinian revolution when it said we move on the basis of Fes.

[Anis] With regard to the resistance in the south of Lebanon, what is the role of the Palestinian revolution?

['Arafat] I am proud to say that the Palestinian revolution is still fighting together with its Lebanese allies in southern Lebanon side by side and with full responsibility. It is sufficient to point out to you that we have 400 Palestinian detainees in Ansar detention camp in addition to 800 Lebanese detainees. These were detained because they carried out military operations. There are 600 of them are from 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. And it is enough to note the revenge operations which Israel carries out against the camps.

Regrettably, our enemy knows the Palestinian role, but there are those who try to deny this role. It is enough to mention that Murphy's agreement which I call "Camp Murphy" contains two articles. The first concerns preventing the return of PLO fighters to southern Lebanon; and the second concerns securing the northern borders of the so-called Israel against Palestinian fedayeen. Had it not been for the presence of the fighters, these two articles would not have been mentioned as main conditions in the agreement.

Amman Officially Informed Of PNC Resolution Plan

JN220804 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AL-RA'Y* has learned that the Jordanian Government has received an official memorandum from PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih which contains the Palestinian leadership's decision to move PNC headquarters from Damascus to Amman.

Dissident Leader Reportedly Has Heart Attack

NC240858 Beirut THE DAILY STAR in English 22-23 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] Palestinian dissident leader Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] reportedly suffered a heart attack recently in Damascus, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reported Friday. Abu Musa reportedly was stricken November 27 while meeting with aides and was taken directly to a hospital. CNA said the heart attack should explain Abu Musa's recent disappearance from Palestinian politics.

OPEC Meeting Adjourned After Production Talks

LD211446 Kuwait KUNA in English 1115 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, Dec 21 (KUNA) — OPEC oil ministers were flying home from their Geneva conference on Friday after drawing up proposals intended to make member countries respect production levels and keep to the OPEC pricing system.

For the first time OPEC was attempting to enforce its rules in order to hold production at 16 million barrels a day (b/d) and stop price discounting.

OPEC was seen to be embarking on a serious effort to end the flouting of its rules, in a bid to firm up prices.

The ministers, after hearing the proposals from a five member committee for a way of policing the 13 OPEC countries' conduct, adjourned the conference until next Thursday to seek approval from their heads of state for the new plan.

The head of the committee, Indonesian Energy Minister Dr Subroto, said Friday the scheme aimed at controlling and policing production and prices. He agreed that all oil production, not only exports, would be monitored.

The committee grouped oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Indonesia, with OPEC's secretary general, Dr Fadhil al-Shalabi of Iraq.

Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Taqi said the proposed system was a very important move to create market stability.

Nigerian Oil minister Tam David-West said OPEC would have an expanded market monitoring committee to check on oil production, linked to the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna.

The members of the committee have not yet been chosen, he said.

OPEC was aiming at what Dr. Subroto called "drastic" measures to restore discipline after the production cutback in October to 16 million b/d failed to be effective.

Member countries have continued to disregard quotas and exceed the output ceiling by 500,000 to one million b/d.

After two full days of talks in Geneva the 13 ministers had not started to tackle the issues of differentials.

The problem of closing the price gap between heavy and light crudes is to be dealt with at the resumed talks next week.

Observers said it was questionable whether all OPEC countries would accept a stringent monitoring system that could be seen as infringing on their national sovereignty.

The head of Ecuador's delegation, Fernando Santos Alvite, deputy energy minister, said Ecuador would support the plan "if it does not affect our sovereignty".

UAE Petroleum Minister Comments on OPEC Policy

NC230635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, has praised Egypt's oil policy, saying that this policy is appreciated by OPEC, particularly since Egypt had refused to back down vis-a-vis the pressures aimed at forcing it to reduce its oil prices. Al-'Utaybah commended Egypt's cooperation and coordination with OPEC, adding that these were encouraging signs for all non-OPEC countries.

In a statement which will published by *AL-AHRAM* tomorrow, Al-'Utaybah said that the size of oil exports can only be determined by every state and not by OPEC. He disclosed that the OPEC oil ministers are currently holding consultations with their countries with regard to the current oil production ceiling.

The UAE petroleum minister expects that the oil world prices will be stabilized within 90 days provided that the OPEC members unanimously abide by the present production rate — 16 million barrels per day — and amend the structure of price differentials among the various kinds of heavy, medium, and light density crude oil.

Continuing his statement to *AL-AHRAM*, Al-'Utaybah said that OPEC's next session, scheduled for next Thursday, is aimed at adopting temporary decisions [qararat mu'qattah] to achieve a stabilized world oil market within 90 days, at the latest, to confront the artificial pressures which are negatively affecting the oil market. He affirmed in this regard that OPEC's collective commitment is the only way to maintain the present price levels.

The UAE minister dismissed reports that some Arab countries are giving oil quotas to South Africa. He described these reports as tendentious rumors aimed at creating differences among the oil producing countries whether inside or outside OPEC, and at disturbing the world oil markets.

In his statement, Dr Al-'Utaybah touched on OPEC's internal situation, saying that the cooperation among the OPEC members is a must to defend their interests and maintain their oil prices without introducing any reductions.

He added that tHe OPEC is currently endeavoring to make the largest number of oil producing countries join in its work in a bid to achieve further coordination and cooperation with these countries. He said that OPEC's efforts in this regard have made tangible progress toward achieving stability in the world oil market without any price reduction, particularly since the oil prices of the North Sea — Britain and Norway — are almost $2.5 less than the basic price of $29 per barrel. This is due to their lack of cooperation with all the oil producing-exporting countries whether inside or outside OPEC.

Dr Al-'Utaybah left Cairo yesterday following a 1-day visit to Egypt while on his way home after attending the OPEC meetings in Geneva.

GULF AFFAIRS

Lloyds, Oslo Sources on Attacked Tankers

JN211641 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] London — The British shipping insurance company Lloyds said that a Norwegian oil tanker *Thorshavet* sent an SOS after being hit by a missile in the Gulf today. The company's information section said that fire broke out in the tanker and that the crew began abandoning it. On another level, shipping sources in Bahrain confirmed this report today adding that the tanker was carrying 114,099 metric tons of crude.

An Iraqi military spokesman had earlier asserted that our Air Force carried out devastating strikes on two large maritime targets south of Khark Island today scoring accurate, direct hits.

In Oslo, the Norwegian shipowners foundation said that the tanker had left Khark Island earlier today carrying 220,000 metric tons of crude. A foundation spokesman said that the tanker's crew numbered 26, 19 of whom are from Norway and the other 7 from Spain.

AFP: Liberian-Flagged Vessel Attacked in Gulf

NC211654 Paris AFP in English 1650 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] London, Dec 21 (AFP) — A second oil tanker, the Liberian-registered *Magnolia*, was hit in Gulf waters today near the Iranian oil terminal on Khark Island, after a Norwegian supertanker was left abandoned and in flames following a missile attack, Lloyd's said. Two of the *Magnolia's* crew were killed and survivors quit the 112,000-ton vessel after it was hit about 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Khark, the insurance group said. It did not know whether the ship was loaded. The 17-year-old *Magnolia* is operated by a Monaco-based firm, the Societe d'Etudes et de Gestion, Lloyd's said.

The report implicitly confirmed an Iraqi claim that its warplanes had hit two "large naval targets" today, south of Khark in the northeastern Gulf.

Earlier, Lloyd's said that salvage tugs had been sent to aid the Norwegian supertanker *Thorshavet*, which was in flames after being hit by a missile at 0932 GMT.

YAR

Further Reportage on ICO Ministers Conference

Gambia Backs War Mediation Effort

LD212148 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2105 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, 21 Dec (KUNA) — Sources in the Kuwaiti delegation to the ICO foreign ministers conference told KUNA that Iran for the first time has agreed to the ICO's resolution which calls for the two parties "to consider the rules of the Islamic shari'a, the Geneva convention regarding prisoners of war, and the Geneva protocol on chemical weapons."

The resolution included in its preamble an appreciation of the efforts of the Islamic Good Offices Committee and took note of Iraq's [as received] agreement to cooperate with the Islamic Good Offices Committee. It also expressed, in its provisions, its appreciation for the Islamic Good Offices Committee's efforts and praised the role of its ex-chairman Ahmed Sekou Toure and the current chairman, President of Gambia Dawda Jawara.

Conference sources informed KUNA that in addition to the early efforts by the delegations, including the Kuwaitis and Saudi Arabians, the Gambian foreign minister, whose country chairs the Islamic Good Offices Committee, has exerted intensive efforts in order to arrive at such a formulation. It appears that the minister was hoping that this resolution would enable his country to continue its efforts on a new basis in order to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Iran, Iraq Agree on Resolution

LD212052 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2026 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, 21 Dec (KUNA) — Iraq and Iran, both participants in the foreign ministers conference of the Islamic countries, agreed here tonight on a resolution calling on them to cooperate fully and sincerely with the Islamic Good Offices Committee in order to achieve an immediate halt to the war and to solve their conflict on fair and honorable basis.

Resolution on Gulf War Issued

JN221048 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, 22 Dec (INA) — Last night the Islamic foreign ministers conference issued a resolution on the Iraq-Iran war. The following is the text of the resolution:

The 15th Islamic foreign ministers conference held in Sanaa from 18-22 December 1984, guided by the principles and values of the noble Islamic religion, recalling the noble principles and aims emphasized in the ICO's charter; and out of the desire to see the spirit of tolerance, fraternity, and cooperation prevail in relations among the member states;

With reference to the resolution adopted by the fourth Islamic summit conference held in Casablanca 16-19 January 1984 on the conflict between Iraq and Iran, which stressed the need to stop fighting between them and solve the conflict peacefully, and which was based on the previous resolutions of the Islamic summit conferences and the UN Security Council resolutions;

Realizing the serious results and grave consequences of continuing this conflict between two neighborly Muslim countries which are members of this organization — that is, the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran — as well as the resulting waste of each country's human and material potentials and the weakening of the Islamic countries' capabilities to confront the Islamic nation's enemies;

After listening to the ICO secretary general's report on the efforts exerted by the Islamic Good Offices Committee; and taking cognizance of Iraq's agreement to cooperate with the Islamic Good Offices Committee, decides:

1. To appreciate the satisfactory efforts that were exerted by the Islamic Good Offices Committee.
2. To praise the positive role of late Ahmed Sekou Toure, former chairman of the committee.
3. To praise the positive role being played by Gambian President Dawda Jawara, the current chairman of the Islamic Good Offices Committee.
4. To call on the two sides to fully and sincerely cooperate with the Islamic Good Offices Committee in order to achieve an immediate halt to the war and to solve the two countries' dispute on a just and honorable basis.
5. To appeal to the two sides to observe the rules of the Islamic shari'a, the Geneva convention regarding prisoners of war, and the Geneva protocol on chemical weapons.

The INA correspondent in Sanaa has learned that some parties to the conference tried to omit the phrase that refers to Iraq's cooperation with Islamic Good Offices Committee from the resolution. However, the conference insisted on maintaining it.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on Resolution

JN221026 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, 22 Dec (INA) — Commenting on the resolution issued by the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Sanaa regarding the Iraq-Iran conflict, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the following:

The most important part of the resolution is the conference's assertion that the two parties to the conflict should cooperate with the Islamic Good Offices Committee in order to reach an immediate cease-fire and solve the conflict on a just and honorable basis, since the committee's work has been disrupted for a long time. The resolution contained a frank recognition of Iraq's cooperation with the committee. This was also confirmed by Secretary General Habib Chatti's report to the conference.

In a statement to the INA correspondent today, the foreign minister said: It was obvious to everyone that it was Iran which obstructed the committee's work, because it refused to recognize the committee, rejected its proposals, and even refused to receive its members in Tehran. The overwhelming majority of delegations expressed their great concern over the continuation of war. They acknowledged Iraq's positive stands, and its agreement to stop the war and solve the conflict on a just and honorable basis. They also praised Iraq's stands and its sincere cooperation with the Islamic Good Offices Committee.

Asked by the INA correspondent about the manner in which the news media in Sanaa announced this resolution — a manner which gave the impression that agreement on essential affairs related to the conflict was reached during the conference — Tariq 'Aziz said: This impression is inaccurate. After the resolution was read out to and approved by the conferees, I stressed in the name of the Iraqi delegation that Iraq will abide by it in letter and spirit. I also expressed our readiness to sincerely cooperate with the Islamic Good Offices Committee. However, the Iranian delegation remained silent and did not comment on the resolution.

It is noteworthy that the Iranian delegation expressed reservation over the section at the beginning of the resolution which refers to the Casablanca summit resolutions and the UN Security Council resolutions, something which confirms the Iranian regime's negative stand toward the ICO and its resolutions on the conflict. Therefore, it is premature to assess the practical value of the Sanaa resolution until the Iranian Government's position on it is ascertained. The fact that the Iranian delegation did not object to it does not necessarily mean that the Iranian regime will abide by it. As I have said, the Iranian delegation kept silent. Tehran should issue a clear official affirmation on its acceptance of and abidance by the resolution, so that conclusions can be drawn.

Tariq 'Aziz indicated that the Iranian delegation was exposed to strong pressures at the conference because of its intransigent position on the war. The Iranian delegation's position at the conference may be interpreted as an attempt to avoid the conferees' pressures.

Velayati Rejects Conference Appeal

JN221151 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1136 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, 22 Dec (INA) — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has announced his government's rejection of the Islamic foreign ministers' appeal for full and sincere cooperation with the Islamic Good Offices Committee in order to achieve an immediate halt to the war and to observe the rules of Islamic shari'a and the Geneva convention regarding prisoners of war. At a news conference held in Sanaa today, Velayati reiterated the Iranian regime's insistence on continuing aggression against Iraq.

Regarding the Islamic foreign ministers' resolution, he said that the Iranian delegation expressed reservations over the conference's resolution, particularly the part on mediation.

Resolutions Approved, Meeting Adjourned

GF221224 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The 15th Islamic foreign ministers conference resumed its meetings today under the chairmanship of 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress.

The draft resolutions put forward by the Economic Affairs Committee, the Cultural and Islamic Heritage Committee, and the Politics and Information Committee, were approved during the session following a detailed discussion by the conference and the introduction of technical amendments. The conference adjourned the meeting at 1400 [1100 GMT] today.

Final Communique Issued

GF230910 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text of the final communique issued at the final session of the 15th Islamic foreign ministers conference on 22 December 1984 in Sanaa, read by Hamzah Tubbanah, adviser to the ICO secretary general — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The 15th session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference opened with the attendance of all member countries and their deputies responsible for the establishments and organizations stemming from the ICO. The conference was opened by Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the secretary general of the General People's Congress. He delivered an important speech in which he greeted, on behalf of the YAR Government and people, all the Islamic countries' delegations and expressed his extreme joy over the convocation of the 15th conference of the Islamic foreign ministers in Sanaa amidst the hospitality of the beloved ones and supporters of the prophet, peace be upon him. He also expressed thanks to all for responding to this invitation, which is an embodiment of the unity of Muslim world and their solidarity and togetherness. His excellency affirmed that the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon is considered a challenge which requires all of us to rise to the level of these challenges. He also noted that the continuation of the vicious war which has been going on for 5 years between the two Muslim people in Iraq and Iran is regarded one of the most important issues that must be confronted. He said the ICO should continue its efforts to quickly resolve the conflict between the two countries.

His excellency pointed out that the Islamic world, with its economic and human resources, represents a force which cannot be ignored. This, he said, enables the Islamic world to boost steps of collective development and makes it capable of imposing its authority as a world united by religion based on righteousness, goodness and peace. His excellency added that our Islamic nation has a holy duty to liberate the Islamic territories and holy places, foremost of which is Holy Jerusalem. His excellency said: The most important things that are expected from this conference are positive moves to strengthen economic cooperation among the ICO members as well as to solve the economic problems suffered by the lesser developed members, the establishment of development programs in the Islamic world and strengthening cooperation among the members in all sectors. His excellency concluded his important speech by affirming that the YAR will make efforts through cooperation with the General Secretariat of the ICO to facilitate the mission of the conference in a way that will bring about its success.

The conference decided to make the speech of the YAR president an official document in the main documents of the conference owing to its importance and the new ideas and the wise directions that it included.

The struggler Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, participated in the opening session of the conference.

The chairman of the Bangladesh delegation, Omanin Sirri, foreign affairs adviser to the Bangladesh president and representative to the fourth Islamic foreign ministers session, delivered a speech in which he thanked the YAR for its warm and generous hospitality and welcome and its careful preparation. He also recalled the role played by the Yemeni people in the glory and civilization of Islam. He talked about the current international situation and the fateful Islamic and international causes and called on the Islamic nation to exert efforts to strengthen Islamic solidarity.

Habib Chatti, ICO secretary general, also delivered a speech in which he hailed the YAR Government and people and lauded the Yemeni people who have done their best to support the Islamic cause and have raised its banner since the era of the prophet, blessings of God upon him. His excellency lauded the role played by the YAR in the successive Islamic meetings and in the support of Islamic solidarity. He pointed to his end of term and explained the policy he pursued over the past 5 years in strengthening the pillars of the organization and promoting its position. He said that he will remain to be a working soldier for Islam and muslims.

The conference unanimously elected Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy YAR prime minister and foreign minister, chairman of the 15th Islamic foreign ministers conference. The conference also unanimously elected three deputy chairmen, their excellencies Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistani finance, commerce, planning and provincial cooperation minister; Ibrahim Fall, Senegalese foreign minister, and Farug Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department. Omanin Sirri, adviser to Bangladesh president for foreign affairs, was elected as general referendary.

Upon his election as chairman of the conference, Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy YAR prime minister and foreign minister, delivered a speech in which he welcomed everybody to Yemen and to the convocation of their meetings in Sanaa, which is considered the oldest Arab Islamic capital. He said the leadership, government and people of the YAR are filled with joy as they embrace with open heart and honest affection this Islamic meeting, which represents the unity of our glorious nation. He talked about the commitment of the Yemeni people to the immortal message of Islam since the emergence of its clear light in Holy Mecca and their solidarity with all Muslim brothers every where. He reiterated the belief of the YAR in the need for and importance of Islamic solidarity, which undoubtedly represents the strong path that should be adopted by the Islamic nation to resist the dangers facing it and to be able to deal with our modern world in the language of the century and its history. He said this will not be realized until the Islamic nation overcomes its differences in order to contribute positively to the international causes in which we are involved and to win support for our fateful and just causes.

His excellency then said that the YAR looks forward with optimism and hope to this conference succeeding in realizing the aspirations of the Islamic nation. He reminded the participants of the historic circumstances under which the ICO was established in 1960 following the criminal attack on the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. He called on the Muslims to remember that now more than ever Islamic solidarity is the strongest weapon and the only

path of this nation to liberate Holy Jerusalem, which is the cornerstone to ensure the security of the Islamic countries and to ensure that they progress, flourish and that their interests are protected. On this basis the Islamic countries and the ICO should play an effective role in international policy and the solution of regional disputes and the termination of international conflicts by peaceful means.

The conference then heard the speech of brother 'Ali Mahtar M'bow, UNESCO general director, who expressed joy to be attending the conference in historic Sanaa and pointed out the necessity of developing cooperation between the ICO and UNESCO in various fields, particularly in preserving the heritage of Islam in general and the protection of Holy Jerusalem from any distortion in particular.

The conference heard the speech by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar delivered on his behalf by Rafeeuddin Ahmed, under secretary general. He affirmed in the speech that the ICO bears a great responsibility in the attempt to settle fateful causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause. In his speech he pointed out that the United Nations will make a maximum effort and cooperate with regional and international organizations to resolve the problems faced by the world.

Following that, the conference heard the speech by the representative of the Nonaligned Movement, A.A. Rahim, Indian minister of state for external affairs. A.A. Rahim pointed out the importance of strengthening cooperation between the Nonaligned Movement and the ICO considering that they have similar goals aimed at the realization of international progress and peace.

Following that the conference heard the speech delivered by 'Abd al-Qadir Muhammad, general director of the Islamic Organization for Education, Culture and Sciences, in which he talked about the activity of the Arab League for Culture, Education and Science Organization and its acheivements and efforts to strengthen the Islamic countries' cooperation and solidarity in educational and cultural fields, which is the basis of all development and progress. He expressed hope that the organiztion will, through members' cooperation, overcome the financial difficulties that it is facing.

The conference also heard the speech of (?Mirusawi), the representative of the Moro National Liberation Front, who spoke on the condition of the Muslims in the southern Philippines. The conference considered his speech one of the conference's documents.

The conference then heard the speech of (Kagasimuni Aldikom). He noted the previous Islamic conferences and meetings and expressed support for the efforts of the Turkish Cypriots to achieve their just rights and bring about a situation of equality with the Greek Cypriots. The conference expressed hope that the summit meeting between the two sides which has been announced by the UN secretary general, will arrive at a just and permanent solution to the Cyprus question.

Chadli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, delivered a speech in which he greeted the YAR for hosting the conference and lauded the ICO for its constant efforts to unite the ranks of the Islamic nation and strengthen Islamic solidarity.

The conference heard a speech by Amin 'Abbas, assistant secretary general of the Islamic World League, in which he pointed out that the ICO Charter is based on the Islamic religion which calls on the member countries to abide by the application of the principles of the Holy Book and the Prophet's laws.

The conference then heard a speech delivered by Dr Muhammad Aba Rahim, chairman of the Islamic Propagation Society, in which he hailed the YAR and expressed hope that the conference will realize the purpose for which it has been convened.

The conference also heard the speech delivered by the representative of the Afghan mujahidin in which he affirmed the determination of the Afghan people to continue to struggle to restore their rights and called on the conference to present all kinds of support to the Afghan resistance to achieve its goals.

Ahmad Muhammad al-'Iryani, YAR Foreign Ministry under secretary and chairman of the ICO senior officials meeting, gave the report of the senior officials meeting and the conference ratified it. The delegations of Syria, Libya and Iran expressed reservations on that part of the report dealing with Egypt resuming active participation in the ICO, and justified their reservation by the fact that this is not in accord with the decision of the fourth Islamic summit in this regard.

Following that, the conference went on to discuss the committees listed in the bylaws of the ICO meetings: the Committee on Political and Information Affairs, the Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, the Committee on Islamic Education Affairs and the Committee of Administrative and Financial Affairs. It unanimously ratified the report of the ICO secretary general on the activity of the Secretariat General of the organization during the period between the 14th and 15th sessions.

During the general debate of the conference their excellencies and highnesses the leaders of the delegations delivered speeches in which they expressed gratitude and appreciation to the YAR president, government and people for hosting this conference and ensuring the appropriate fraternal atmosphere for realizing the goals for which it was convened, highly assessed the speech by which Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, opened the work of the conference, pointed out the importance of the issues discussed by the conference and the joint Islamic work to strengthen the Islamic solidarity as well as talked about the causes of the Islamic world and the situation of the Muslim people and current international issues.

The conference then discussed the various topics on its agenda and adopted the following resolutions:

With regard to the fundamental and organizational questions, the conference unanimously elected His Excellency Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Pakistani attorney general, as new ICO secretary general effective 1 January 1985 to succeed His Excellency Mr Habib Chatti whose term ends at the end of December 1984. The conference praised his outstanding traits and political experience and expressed its confidence in his leadership of the

General Secretariat. In this regard too, the conference expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Bangladesh for its contributions in the efforts to reach an agreement on electing the new secretary general. The conference praised the enormous services rendered by His Excellency Secretary General Habib Chatti during the years when he ran the ICO General Secretariat and the excellent work he performed for the benefit of the organization and for the benefit of Islamic questions, and expressed its profound gratitude and appreciation.

As for the appointment of the assistant secretaries general, the conference decided to postpone their appointment for a period not to exceed 2 months in order to provide the new secretary general with the opportunity to meet the candidates and to hold additional consultations in order to reach an agreement in this regard. The conference recommended that the permanent delegates to the ICO in Jeddah meet at the appropriate time to receive ICO approval for these appointements.

In implementatation of Resolution No 11/3AQ by the previous ICO summit conference concerning the establishment of an international Islamic court of justice, the conference decided to commission the General Secretariat to convene a meeting of the legal experts' committee. This committee is comprised of all the members and was convened by the fourth Islamic summit conference under the auspices of the conference's chairman. The General Secretariat is asked to submit a report to the 16th conference of the ICO foreign ministers on the implementation of this resolution. The conference decided tocommission the general secretariat to call on the members to apoint experts to meet within the framework of a legal committee to restudy the draft document on human rights in Islam, particularly its content and wording in light of the observations made by the members during this conference. After approval, the committee will submit the draft document once more to the 16th Islamic conference of foreign ministers.

During the conference's general session, the following members announced donations to some ICO funds and to the bodies and instituations stemming from them: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia donated $10 billion to a number of institutions and establishments that stem from the ICO, one of which is the Islamic Solidarity Fund. Kuwait announced that it will in the future send its donations to the various funds and regional institutions. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan announced its donation of $50,000 to the Jerusalem Fund, $40,000 to the Islamic Solidarity Fund, $10,000 to the Islamic Thought Institute in [name of city indistinct], and $10,000 to the Islamic Civilization Institute in Gabon. The Republic of Senegal announced a donation of $2,000 to the Islamic Solidarity Fund. The Republic of Cameroon announced a donation of $100,000 to the Islamic Foundation of Science, Technology, and Development. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah announced a donation of $500,000 to the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development. The Tunisian Republic announced a donation of $40,000 to the Jerusalem Fund, $70,000 to the endowment system of the Islamic Solidarity Fund, and $50,000 to the Islamic Solidarity Fund. The Sultanate of Oman announced a donation of $50,000 to the Islamic Solidarity Fund, and $20,000 to the Jerusalem Fund. The Republic of Turkey announced a donation of $30,000 to the Islamic Solidarity Fund, $30,000 to the Jerusalem Fund, $15,000 to the endowment system of the Islamic Solidarity Fund; and $15,000 to the endowment system of the Jerusalem Fund.

Then the conference gratefully accepted the noble invitation extended by the Kingdom of Morocco to host the 16th Islamic conference of foreign ministers. The conference also agreed to renew the membership terms of the members of the present permanent council of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for another similar period. On the basis of the fourth Islamic summit conference's resolution approving the Casablanca charter, the conference requested the secretary general to hold consultations with the chairmanship of the said conference on forming reconciliation committees for resolving disputes and settling differences among Islamic countries, and to distribute the aforementioned study among the members for their opinions prior to submitting it to the next ICO foreign ministers' conference which will, in light of the study, appoint the members of the committees.

Regarding the political and media issues and the issues that deal with the Palestinian problem, the conference reaffirmed that the Palestinian issue is the Muslims' primary issue and the core of the Middle East problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. A just peace in the region can only be achieved on the basis of the Israeli enemy's total and unconditional withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the restoration of the firm national rights of the Palestinian people which represent their right to return to their homeland, Palestine, their right to self-determination and to establish their national independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

The conference affirmed that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that it is the only one that has the total right to represent this people. The conference also affirmed that the UN Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 is incompatible with Palestinian and Arab rights and is not a sound basis for resolving the Palestinian and the Middle East issue. The conference also stressed that no Arab side should individually find a solution to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Zionist conflict. It also stressed the continuation to confront the Camp David accords and the outcome and effects resulting from it until the nullification of those accords and the elimination of their effects, including any initiative stemming from those accords. It also sought to provide total and effective financial and moral support to the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland and also to bolster their resistance against the conspiracy of autonomy.

The conference supported all international initiatives to resolve the Palestinian issue and which would achieve the abovementioned seven principles, foremost of which is the Fes peace plan. The conference strongly denounced the Zionist practices which are designed to implement the laws of the Zionist entity in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The conference reaffirmed the importance of adopting the principle of strengthening Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people and saluted the steadfast Palestinian people for their firmness and continued confrontation of the Zionist enemy under the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in order to establish their state on all the Palestinian soil.

The conference reaffirmed its total adherence to the implementation of what was stated in the Islamic work program to confront the Zionist enemy and which was adopted by the third Islamic summit conference and to the implementation of what was stated by the resolutions and recommendations which were issued by the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. It also affirmed the importance of using all its available abilities and the abilities of the Islamic countries to confront the Zionist enemy's decision to annex Holy Jerusalem to its entity.

The conference denounced the United States for its hostile policy to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. It also demanded that the European group adopt more positive stances in this regard. The conference called upon the members to reconsider their relations with the United States and any other state in light of their policies toward the firm and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The conference strongly denounced the Sabra and Shatila crime which was committed by the Israeli enemy in 1982. It also denounced the continued crimes of the Israeli enemy against the Lebanese towns and villages and the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. The conference strongly denounced the strategic alliance between the United States and the Zionist enemy and all the agreements which are within this frameowrk.

With regard to the disastrous outcome of the continuation of the dispute between the two neighboring countries that are ICO members — the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran — which is wasting the human and financial abilities of the two countries and which is threatening the security and stability of the Islamic countries and the international community, the conference adopted a decision in which it expressed its appreciation for the efforts which have been exerted by the Islamic Peace Committee and called upon the two sides to totally and sincerely cooperate with the committee in order to immediately stop the war and resolve the current conflict between the two countries on a just and honorable basis. The conference also appealed to the two sides to pay due consideration to the rules of the Islamic shari'a and the Geneva convention on prisoners of war and the Geneva protocol on chemical weapons. The two sides agreed to this resolution and the leader of the Iraqi delegation announced that his country will adhere to this resolution in word and spirit.

The conference expressed its anxiousness for Lebanon's independence, unity, and total sovereignty on all its territories, within its internationally recognized borders. It also expressed support for the efforts of the Lebanese Government to impose its authority on Lebanese soil and to firmly establish the reconciliation among the Lebanese. It also expressed its strong concern for the continuation of the Isareli occupation of large areas of Lebanese territories and demanded the immediate evacuation of the Zionist forces from all Lebanese territories, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. It affirmed its support of the Lebanese Government's stance to put an end to the occupation.

The conference also stressed that Israel's decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights is illegal, null and void, and constitutes a heinous violation of the UN resolutions. The conference also reaffirmed the necessity of the work to implement the resolutions on Afghanistan which were issued by the fourth Islamic summit conference and called for increasing the efforts to guarantee securing Afghanistan's independence as a nonaligned country.

The conference expressed its strong concern over the ground and air violations against Pakistani territories by the Afghan side. It also took account of the self-restraint exercised by the Government of Pakistan toward these provocative actions.

The conference recommended cooperation with the United Nations disarmament conference and called for rendering Africa, the Middle East and southern Asia nuclear-free zones to bolster the security of the non-nuclear countries in the face of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

The conference strongly denounced the Israeli enemy for its failure to observe the resolutions of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, for not placing its nuclear installations under the system of guarantees, and for its continuation to implement plans to possess nuclear weapons.

The conference also denounced all forms of international terrorism, including air piracy and hijacking, and urged members not to succumb to hijackers' demands and called on them to resort to all measures that can put an end to these crimes.

The conference also stressed the territorial integrity of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros and its sovereignty over the Island of Mayotte. The conference reaffirmed its recognition of the legitimacy of the struggle waged by the peoples of Namibia and South Africa with all means available to them. It strongly denounced South Africa's policy of racial discrimination and saluted the role of the confrontation states in supporting the African national liberation movement and called for supporting it in confronting the aggression of the racist regime in Pretoria.

The conference reaffirmed its support for the noble principles called for by UNESCO, and stressed its support for what UNESCO does within the sphere of its authority in order to bolster peace, security, and mutual understanding among all nations. The conference condemned the attempts of some countries to cast doubt on the activities of UNESCO. It also praised the organization's director general, Mr Amadou Mahtar M'bow, for the courage and self-restraint he exercises in confronting the present situation of the organization.

The conference also called on members to establish close cooperation in the information field, and commissioned the General Secretariat to continue its consultations to convene a conference of information ministers and to continue the implementation of its information plan. It appealed to members to provide help and voluntary donations to achieve the implementation of this plan. The conference expressed its appreciation for the efforts and accomplishments of the Organization of Islamic Countries' Radio Stations and its programs.

In the context of solidarity with the peoples of the African coast, the conference reaffirmed the importance of continuing the program of emergency food aid and the program of aid for urgent development projects in the 10 countries of the African coast, and the importance of adopting the medium and long range programs made by the coast countries in order to combat drought and

bolster the intrinsic food capabilities in the said countries. In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco announced its donation of $10 million to aid the drought victims in the coast area. The conference urged members to form other committees for solidarity with the drought-stricken peoples of the coast to take charge of collecting cash and other donations and delivering them to those who need them.

At the conclusion of its political resolutions, the conference affirmed Resolutions Nos 24/4/29 and 25/4/29 which were made by the 14th ICO foreign ministers' conference on Ethiopia's occupation of two regions of the territories of the Democratic Republic of Somalia and with regard to the problem of the Horn of Africa. The conference requested the secretary general to follow up and submit a report to the 16th ICO foreign ministers' conference. Some member states expressed reservations on this matter.

Third: The economic and social issues: The conference requested the General Secretariat to follow up the efforts aimed at formulating a working plan to bolster economic cooperation among members in view of Resolution No 1/4/AQ/QA issued by the 4th Islamic summit conference. The conference commissioned the General Secretariat to give the problem of underdeveloped members the attention it deserves and to closely follow up the implementation of the resolutions of the UN conference on the less developed countries which was held in Paris in 1981.

The conference called on the international community, and particularly ICO members, to implement the UNCTAD resolutions on the specific problems of landlocked developing countries, and asked the secretariat to continue to pay attention to their special problems.

The conference called on ICO members and specialized agencies to continue to assist in rebuilding the earthquake-stricken areas in the YAR.

The conference called on members to contribute generously to the countries in the drought-stricken areas. The conference called on ICO institutions and specialized agencies to inform members of the aid needed by these countries in order to alleviate the damage they have suffered. The conference also urged members, UN agencies, and international organizations to assist in achieving the goals of its operations plan. The conference urged the international community to fulfill its commitments arising from the 3 December 1984 declaration issued by the 39th ordinary session of the UN General Assembly on the gravity of the economic situation in Africa.

The conference endorsed the draft bylaws of the Islamic Cement Union, and welcomed the offer of the Turkish Government to host the union's main office.

The conference also endorsed the draft bylaws of the Islamic International Telecommunications Union, and welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host the union's main office.

The conference also called on members which have not yet signed the statutes of the Islamic Council for Civil Aviation to sign and endorse these statutes.

The conference urged the ICO Secretariat to make further efforts to implement the development program in the Muslim world in light of the resolutions adopted by the fourth Islamic summit conference.

With regard to cultural and Islamic affairs and the Islamic Solidarity Fund the conference expressed satisfaction with the measures taken by the ICO Secretariat, the Government of Niger, and the governments of other member countries to build the Arabic and Islamic Studies College of the Islamic University in Niger. The conference also expressed its gratitude to the governments of members contributing grants to this project, and called on the states that have not supported this project with contributions to do so.

The conference also expressed satisfaction with the progress in the project to build the Islamic University in Uganda with the assistance given by the Ugandan Government. The conference approved the university's statutes and asked the ICO Secretariat to continue to coordinate its efforts with the Ugandan Government to complete the first stage of the university.

The conference lauded the good efforts of the Malaysian Government on behalf of the Muslim nation, and particularly on behalf of the Muslim minorities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean, to build the International Islamic University in Malaysia. The conference called on the Islamic Solidarity Fund and all ICO specialized agencies and institutions to extend material and moral assistance to the Islamic University of Malaysia, the Islamic University of Bangladesh, the regional office for technical training in Pakistan, the regional office for Islamic studies and research in Timbuktu, the Islamic Institute for Translation in Khartoum, and the Zaytouniyah Shari'a and Theology College in Tunisia.

The conference lauded the positive results achieved by the Islamic Education, Science, and Culture Organization, and urged members which have not yet joined this organization to do so.

The conference urged ICO members and institutions to contribute generously to the Center for Islamic Research, History, Arts, and Culture to assist in restoring the building allocated to it by the Turkish Government.

The conference also lauded the decision of the YAR Government to take urgent measures to protect the old city of Sanaa and safeguard its historical character, and called on the international community to respond to the international call to safeguard the historic character of the city, and urged members to contribute financially and technically to achieve the campaign's goals.

The conference called on members to extend material and moral aid to build the International Bantu Center in the Republic of Gabon, the Islamic Center in Guinea-Bissau, and the Islamic Cultural Center in Mahore in the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros. The conference welcomed the project to build the Higher Institute for Religious Affairs in Ndjamena, Chad, and called on members to participate in carrying out the project and

support the activities of the King Faysal Mosque so that it can carry out its activities in the best possible manner.

The conference also called on members to sign the agreement on establishing the Islamic Committee (?ILADOL) to enable it to achieve the lofty goals and objectives for which it was formed.

The conference also called on the international committee safeguarding the heritage of the Islamic civilization to continue to coordinate its work with the plan to safeguard the Islamic heritage in ICO states in order to unify Islamic efforts within the same channel. The conference urged member states to contribute to the project of the (Sema) Mosque in Indonesia in view of its historic importance.

The conference called on the ICO Secretariat and the Islamic Education, Science, and Culture Organization to cooperate in studying the possibility of establishing a unified Islamic authority and an authority for the curricula of Islamic education based on Islamic principles in order to benefit from such an authority in preparing books and educational curricula for the various stages of education, and to prepare a report on the results of the study to the forthcoming foreign ministers conference.

The conference urged member states to convey to the ICO Secretariat their views and observations on the draft statutes of the International Islamic Law Committee not later than 31 March 1985 so that the secretariat can refer the views to a team of experts to draw up the final draft of the statutes.

The conference stressed the importance of the American Islamic College in Chicago and the necessity of supporting it. It asked the Islamic Solidarity Fund to support the college within the limits of its capabilities and called on members to offer material and moral assistance so that it can carry out its programs and continue its march. It called on the General Secretariat to study the possibility of turning the college into a voluntary organ acting on behalf of the General Secretariat in the future.

With regard to administrative and financial affairs the conference approved a report by the Standing Financial Committee together with the amendments introduced to it and the fifth report of the Financial Control Committee and urged the members to pay their shares to the budget of the General Secretariat and the organs subordinate to it as quickly as possible. The conference approved the budget of the ICO General Secretariat for 1985 and the budgets of a number of Islamic centers and institutions. The conference also agreed to form an experts committee consisting of a number of members to evaluate and examine the tasks and performance of the ICO and its General Secretariats and also the organs emerging from it for the purpose of better developing their effectiveness and efficiency.

At the conclusion of its discussions the conference expressed sincere appreciation and recognition to His Excellency Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, for hosting the conference. It also expressed regards to the government and to the proud Yemeni people for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to the participants and for the excellent preparation and organization which contributed greatly to the success of the conference. The conference expressed extreme regards to its chairman, 'Abd al-Karim 'Ali al-'Iryani, for his intensive efforts and for the wisdom he had shown in successfully running the fruitful discussions of the conference in the historical city of Sanaa.

In concluding its communique, the conference expressed extreme appreciation at the valuable efforts exerted by the General Secretariat in preparing for this conference and in effectively contributing to its success.

Mubarak Addresses Message to Port Said People

NC231349 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1208 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Port Said, 23 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the victorious Port Said battle has opened the way and provided the example to the peoples of the Arab nation in particular and the Third World in general, and was the spark that set off the fire of these peoples' struggle until they gained their freedom and independence.

In a message he addressed today to the people of Port Said on the occasion of the celebration of victory day and delivered on his behalf by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, President Mubarak said that the Port Said battle laid the strong foundation for the policy of positive neutrality and nonalignment, which is pursued by most Third World states.

President Mubarak affirmed that victory day is a living embodiment of the Egyptian people's will for struggle and steadfastness. It also underlines the Egyptian people's exercise of their natural and legitimate right to self-defense, to control their national resources, and to reshape their life on their land by their free will.

The text of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's message follows:

In the name of god the merciful and compassionate. Brother citizens: Victory day dawns on us on 23 December of every year and with it immortal memories are revived. The profound meaning and significance of this day have been entrenched in our conscience and cannot disappear irrespective of time and events. These memories are carried from generation to generation and are the cause of pride for these generations.

The day which is being marked by the people of Egypt today is a living embodiment of the Egyptian people's will for struggle and steadfastness in defense of their freedom and principles, and is a symbol of devotion and sacrifice for control over their resources. It is also a symbol of the freedom of their will and its application for the progress and prosperity of this homeland and people.

The Egyptian people resisted with boldness and courage the imperialist forces which carried out the aggression against them with the force of arms. The imperialist forces did this because the Egyptian people wanted to regain their control over the Suez Canal which they had dug with the blood and sweat of their sons and wanted to exploit their resources — from which they had been deprived for long — in order to achieve progress and prosperity.

The valiant people of Egypt stood up and resisted the invaders, as they have done for all ages throughout history. They offered martyrs and sacrifices, thus arousing the world conscience in an unprecedented manner. Through their splendid steadfastness, heroism, and bitter struggle, the people of Port Said created a magnificent epic which has been recorded by history and related by the generations. This epic became a model and an example for people struggling for their freedom and independence.

Victory day, which we are celebrating today, provides a good opportunity for us to recall some of the profound lessons of this great event. The first of these is that the people of Egypt, in their struggle and resistance, were not an aggressor but were exercising their natural and legitimate right to self-defense, to control their national resources, and to reshape their life on their land with their free will.

The second lesson is that the victory in Port Said is a reaffirmation of the people's ability to stand fast and triumph over aggression, irrespective of the aggressors' strength, and that the will of the people can make miracles.

The third lesson is that the victorious battle of Port Said opened the way and provided an example to the peoples of our nation in particular and the Third World in general, and was the spark that set off the fire of these peoples' struggle until they gained their freedom and independence. Furthermore, it also laid the strong and firm foundation for the policy of positive neutrality and nonalignment which is pursued by most Third World states.

Recollecting the great meaning of this anniversary is a necessity dictated by the battle of construction and production which we are waging in Egypt today and which aims at achieving economic and social progress and comprehensive development in our dear Egypt. The struggle in the battle of construction and production requires no less courage and sacrifice than the struggle for freedom and independence.

We are confident that this noble people, with their creative capabilities, innovative thinking, and ability to give and sacrifice, are able, god willing, to achieve victory in this battle through their unity, cooperation, work, and sweat for our immortal Egypt.

Brother citizens, as we celebrate this great anniversary, we remember with appreciation the heroic martyrs of Egypt who gave everything for the sake of Egypt's freedom and independence. We stand humbly before their memory, renewing our pledge to them to work united for the prosperity of Egypt and the progress of its people toward a better future.

"And say: Work (righteousness): Soon will God observe your work, and his apostle, and the believers." [Koranic verse] May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Mubarak Speaks to AKHBAR AL-YAWM Journalists

NC240625 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has stressed the need for Arab solidarity and coordination to face the Arabs' basic problems, particularly the Palestinian problem, which could possibly be lost because of estrangement and disagreement. President Mubarak explained the danger of waiting to solve the Palestinian problem, since this will lead to the loss of the remaining Arab Palestinian territories. He stressed the need for the Arabs to agree and to sit at the negotiating table and not to wait for a solution to the problem to drop from the sky.

In a dialogue with the writers and journalists of the *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* newspaper establishment during his visit there

today, President Mubarak spoke about Egypt's stand vis-a-vis the international conference for peace. He said that Resolution 338 was the beginning for propounding the idea of the international conference and was instigated by Egypt in 1973.

In the dialogue, which the paper publishes in tomorrow's issue, President Mubarak said agreement on the convening of this international conference does not mean the elimination of the existing U.S. role and the special relationship between the United States and Israel, but the expansion of the circle of negotiations. In this respect, he called on the Arabs to exploit their relations with the United States and to put Israel in a tight situation before the world if it does not approve the conference. He stressed that when the Arabs form a pan-Arab front it will influence the United States and Israel.

Regarding the relations between Egypt and the Arab countries, President Mubarak said Egypt has relations with most of these countries and channels to all of them. He added that Egypt's return to the Arabs is strength and the Arabs' return to Egypt is strength for them. President Mubarak added that he has done all he can to prepare an Arab environment and to clarify the atmosphere. The matter is now up to the brothers, and there is no pressure. He praised the step taken by Jordan's King Husayn to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt.

President Mubarak explained the government's plan to confront domestic problems, such as housing, water, electricity, and sewage. He said the government is exerting huge efforts to eliminate these problems and to provide investments for them. He reiterated that the emergency laws will not be used against anyone but only to make the citizen secure and to protect stability in the state.

Concerning the problem of Egyptian books and their export, President Mubarak said that he has asked a working group to study the means of eliminating the obstacles facing Egyptian books and of facilitating their export. He stressed the need to restore Egypt's vanguard position in the fields of books, journalism, culture, and information.

'Abd al-Majid Rules Out Mubarak-Peres Meeting

NC220902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has denied that secret talks on the Tabah problem are currently being held in Geneva. He said the resolution of the Tabah problem is one of the three conditions Egypt has made for the return of its ambassador to Tel Aviv. He affirmed that there are no plans at present for a meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Israeli prime minister Shim'on Peres.

In a statement made in Sanaa and published in the newspaper *AL-AHRAM* today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has always supported the Palestinians' right to self-determination, before and after Camp David. He explained that the cancellation of the Camp David agreements is out of the question because Egypt is committed to them and has an obligation to restore the occupied Arab land. He affirmed that Egypt is committed to the Palestinian cause but will not make a unilateral decision to cancel or violate any international agreement.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid called on Israel to fulfil its obligations, noting that there has been a development in the Israeli stand. The present Israeli Government, despite its weakness, has demonstrated through its Prime Minister Shim'on Peres some attempts to resolve the Tabah problem. I mention this as an example because we have not agreed yet. He said there have been some developments which have produced no results yet because any political action needs time and lengthy negotiations.

Concerning the Lebanese problem, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Israel's occupation of Lebanon was a big mistake which consequently produced other mistakes. We decided to recall the Egyptian ambassador because we believe Israel made a miscalculation concerning the Lebanese problem. Israel imagined that it could invade, occupy, and remain saecure in this area. However, events became unfavorable for it.

Answering a question concerning Egypt's return to the Arab fold, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that of course we are happy with Jordan's decision and with the improvement in Egyptian-Palestinian relations. Concerning the other Arab states, we hope that the majority of the Arab states will follow Jordan's step in restoring relations with Egypt. This is because Egypt's relationship with its Arab brothers is an organic one. We are an organic part of the Arab boby, feeling what it feels. We are even the heart in this body. We hope there will be a positive Arab response.

'Abd al-Majid said that some Arab states are awaiting a summit meeting. Egypt has no objection to this, but if the summit is not convened, what will the situation be? He added that we have been told by some Arab officials that if the summit does not convene, then it will be another story. He commented on this by saying that therefore, the possibility exists of the Arab states restoring their relations with Egypt, just as Jordan has done.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that what is important is for the Arab states to marshal their ranks and to confront the challenges surrounding them.

'Abd al-Majid Comments on ICO Results

NC231119 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the results at the Islamic states foreign ministers conference were good. The conference concluded its meetings in Sanaa yesterday. In a statement to MENA Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the conference attained its goals and that a spirit of moderation and understanding prevailed at the conference regarding the various topics discussed.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid arrived in Jeddah from Sanaa last night where he will perform a short pilgrimage before returning to Cairo tomorrow, Monday. In his statement 'Abd al-Majid said that he felt a very warm welcome from various delegations and various levels participating at the Sanaa conference for Egypt's return to the ICO and its participation in the foreign ministers conference.

'Abd al-Majid said that the Syrian [word indistinct] attempts to cast doubt on the legality of Egypt's presence at the ICO did not receive any consideration and failed.

'Abd al-Majid said that the conference was a good opportunity to hold meetings with a large number of foreign ministers, during which consultations over the topics being discussed by the conference as well as bilateral relations and international topics of mutual interest were discussed.

In reply to a question by the MENA correspondent Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that there has been no change in Israel's stance on the conditions Egypt set for the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv, foremost being a solution to the Tabah question and an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and consequently Egypt's stance remains the same.

Further Reportage on SFRY Federal Secretary's Visit

Meets With Prime Minister

NC221344 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 dec (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali met this afternoon with Yugoslav Federal Seceretary of Information Mitko Calovski who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

Egyptian-Yugoslav relations and ways of developing and promoting them in various fields were discussed at the meeting.

Meets With Ghali

NC231436 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 23 De c84

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Mitko Calovski, Yugoslav federal secretary of information, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they focused on the Nonaligned Movement's role at this important stage of its history and the need to stimulate the movement's role in confronting international problems and crises. The two sides exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East in light of the recent changes in the area, particularly following the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan, and the convocation of the Palestine National Council. The talks demonstrated the countries' identical views on international problems. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the close relations linking them and stressed the desire to further bolster them in all domains.

Calovski Departs

NC240852 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 24 (MENA) — Yugoslav Information Minister Mitko Calovski left this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali.

Calovski also discussed with his Egyptian counterpart Safwat al-Sharif the feasibility of fostering information ties between the two countries.

The two ministers stressed the importance of cementing those ties in the future through a new executive program for the next couple of years, covering spheres of media cooperation between Egypt and Yugoslavia.

Coptic Pope Denies Involvement in Politics

NC220859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA) — His Holiness Pope Shinudah has praised the policy pursued by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the domestic and foreign levels. His holiness affirmed that he has not been and will not be involved in political activity and that the church focuses and devotes its attention on ecclesiastical affairs.

In an interview with the weekly newspaper *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* today, his holiness the pope said that Egypt has taken good, practical steps on the path of democracy and that President Mubarak has crowned this period by releasing political detainees and giving them the freedom to express their views and exercise their opposition without coercion.

He praised the president's move in appointing some opposition members to the People's Assembly in order to exercise their political rights and express their views in contributing to the building of Egypt. He said: We are in the midst of a democratic experience. Perhaps some mistakes will be made. But through the democratic process all things will turn to the good.

Answering a question as to whether his holiness has given the church a political character by involving it in some secular problems of the Copts, His Holiness Pope Shinudah said he has never gotten involved in politics in any way. He also has never given the church's ecclesiastical work any political character. He said he as pope is the father of all Copts. In this capacity, people come to him with their problems and ask him to find solutions to them. If he takes these problems to the state, he will then be loyal to it, because he makes the state aware of the problems of a group of people for which it wants to care. He said some Muslims also came to him, asking that he intervene to solve some of their problems or mediate between them and the authorities, and that he used to do so with love.

His holiness the pope added: If the church's political character has been accepted because the pope conveys the requests of the Copts to the state, I propose — in order to remove this burden from the pope — that an office for national unity [maktab lilwahdah al-wataniyah], attached to the presidency, the Interior Ministry, or the ruling party, be established and that all problems affecting national unity be brought to its attention in order to find solutions to them so that the problems will not be repeated and the Copts will not have to approach the pope again.

Answering a question about the behavior of the Copts abroad and their interference in the affairs in Egypt [words indistinct], his holiness the pope said: If we call on the pope to take measures

regarding the Copts abroad, we will be granting him political authority — this is at a time when we have been accusing him of giving his role a political and (?secular) character. Since caring for the Egyptian people is a state affair, then this is one of its duties. Ambassadors or consuls should meet and dicuss with them their activities and stands.

Regarding Egypt's foreign policy, His Holiness Pope Shinudah praised the policy pursued by President Husni Mubarak in reconciling with many states. He also praised Egypt's return to the ICO and the tangible progress in Arab-Egyptian relations.

Coptic Pope May Be Released

NC230956 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, Dec 23 (AFP) — Coptic Pope Shinudah III will be freed from internal exile in time to celebrate his church's feast of the nativity in Cairo on January 7, the Coptic weekly *AL-WATANI* reported here today.

Quoting "well-placed sources", *AL-WATANI* said that the authorities would announce this week that Pope Shinudah was being unconditionally allowed to resume his functions as head of the Coptic church.

The Coptic patriarch was removed from office by the late President Anwar as-Sadat and ordered to a monastery at Wadi Natrun, in the western desert between Cairo and Alexandria, in September 1981.

In an interview published yesterday in the weekly *AKHBAR AL-YAWN*, Pope Shinudah repeated denials that he had interfered in political affairs.

Pope Shinudah, 61, was elected head of the Coptic church by its congregation. Founded by the evangelist Saint Mark, the church has between five million and six million members.

U.S. Withdrawal From UNESCO Regretted

NC221333 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] A Foreign Ministry source has commented on the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO by saying that this is regrettable and that Egypt hopes that the U.S. absence will not be long in view of its huge political and technological weight. Meanwhile, Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, stated that Egypt will continue to cooperate by various means with UNESCO and will give it everything that helps it to perform its noble mission. He said Egypt adheres to the principle of the universality ['alamiyyat] of the UN organizations and that the U.S. decision weakens UNESCO and hampers its capacity to perform cultural, scientific, educational, and social activities.

'Aziz Protests Iran's 'Disavowal' of ICO Resolution

Returns From ICO Conference

JN221551 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 15th meeting of the ICO foreign ministers, who concluded their deliberations in Sanaa today.

Iranian 'Pretense' 'Premeditated Trick'

JN231813 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Iran's pretense to have accepted the Islamic foreign ministers' resolution on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict was a premeditated trick that should be strongly protested by the ICO.

'Aziz said this in a message he sent today to the ICO secretary general; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR foreign minister and chairman of the 15th foreign ministers' conference; and to the Islamic countries' foreign ministers.

The foreign minister said that Iran's pretense of agreeing to the resolution for the sake of averting a stronger resolution being issued and its subsequent disavowal of the resolution after its adoption by the conference was a trick and a display of immoral behavior. He called for the adoption of appropriate measures against this behavior, which he said has led to the disappointment of the conferees and both Islamic and world public opinion.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that the Iranian delegation has renounced the commitments by which it was possible to formulate the resolution and disavowed the agreement which the conference adoped unanimously. He added that this behavior indicates Iran's belittlement of the ICO's conferences and resolutions as well as its insistence on continuing its hostile war against Iraq despite the strong opposition to the continuation of the war as expressed by the overwhelming majority of states.

In his reference to the resolution adopted by the conference on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict yesterday, the foreign minister said that there was another draft resolution on the subject presented by 14 ICO member-states based on the resolution adopted by the fourth ICO summit in Casablanca on 13-16 January 1984, but Iraq, yielding to the wishes of the conference chairman and Gambian foreign minister in his capacity as representative of the Islamic Good Offices Committee's chairman, agreed to cooperate with them to issue a resolution that would enjoy the two sides' approval and that would express the conference's unanimity.

He added that a formula was actually reached and issued unanimously by the conference. The Iranian side agreed to it except for its reservation over a paragraph at the beginning of the resolution referring to the Casablanca summit resolution and the UN Security Council resolutions. He said: When the draft resolution was read out, Muhsin al-'Ayni, chairman of the political committee, indicated that the Iranian delegation expressed its reservations over only that paragraph of the draft resolution. The resolution and the communique, which were read by the conference's chairman, were received with the applause of all those present. Following this, I told the conference of Iraq's acceptance of the resolution and its abidance by it in letter and spirit.

He added that the Iranian delegation remained silent at the conference and that at a press conference held the next day, the Iranian foreign miniter made statements indicating his government's rejection of the call contained in the resolution, claiming that the Iranian delegation had expressed its reservations over the resolution.

'Aziz said: This shows that the Iranian delegation has renounced the commitments by which it was possible to formulate the resolution and disavowed the agreement which enjoyed the conference's unanimous approval.

Papers on Iran's Rejection of ICO Peace Call

JN230941 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) — Iraqi papers have described the Iranian regime's rejection of the call for peace adopted by the Islamic foreign ministers at their final session in Sanaa as a disavowal of all the principles and values of Islam and of the noble objectives contained in the ICO charter. The papers stressed that force is the only language the Iranian rulers understand. The papers added that the Islamic conference's resolution is a new political victory for Iraq because it explicitly acknowledges the sound peaceful trend Iraq has been adopting since the first day of the Iranian aggression and enhances justice, right, and peace.

AL-THAWRAH says that the Iranian regime's rejection of the Islamic resolution and its insistence on defying all Muslims are not something new. This Iranian stand is a continuation of previous intransigent Iranian stands. The paper adds that the Tehran rulers have continued for more than 4 years to clearly proclaim their defiance of the Islamic and international will seeking to end the war and to settle the dispute through peaceful means. *AL-THAWRAH* explains that by refusing to abide by Islamic conference resolutions, the Iranian regime clearly and decisively reaffirms its hostile intentions against Iraq, and proves that its rulers continue to harbor dreams of harming Iraq's soveriegnty, security, and independence. The paper concludes by saying that the Iraqi forces are fully prepared and ready to fight the aggressors and teach them a lesson, crush their frustrated troops, and inflict final defeat on the forces of rancor and barbarism.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on Islamic countries to adopt a serious, just, and clear stand on the Iranian regime which is shedding the blood of Muslims, fragmenting Islamic unity, flouting Islamic public opinion, and deviating from an Islamic consensus. The paper says that once again, Iran has deviated from the consensus reached by 44 Islamic countries, which were hoping to find an outlet that would contribute to ending the Iraqi-Iranian dispute and the war which has been going on for more than 4 years. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that Iraq was not surprised at

the Iranian regime's insistence on its intransignet stand on the war because it knows Iranian intentions, the Iranian regime's distorted way of thinking, and its intentions to occupy Iraq and the entire Islamic world. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* concludes by saying that this Iranian stand is not new. The paper adds that the Iranian rulers have rejected all previous calls for peace, have foiled all attempts at mediation, have ignored all UN Security Council resolutions, and have stuck to their arrogant stand.

The weekly military magazine *AL-YARMUK*, organ of the Defense Ministry, called on all Iraqi fighters to deal more painful blows to the Iranian regime, which rejects all peace calls. The paper stresses that the only way to make the Iranian regime accept the call for peace and give up its expanionist designs is to continue dealing it fierce blows. The paper stresses that the Iranian rulers' rejection of the opportunity the Islamic foreign ministers conference has provided them to end the war through peaceful means gives the Iraqi Armed Forces the right to destroy the Iranian forces and impose a siege on the Iranian regime's supply routes.

Armed Forces Issue Communiques on Fighting

Maritime Targets Hit

JN211735 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,687 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 21 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In order to teach the evil, misguided Iranian rulers the lesson they deserve for their aggression, the courageous Iraqi warriors continue dealing painful blows to the defeated Khomeyniite forces. They affirm that the regime which held in contempt all values and conventions deserves these crushing blows as long as it continues treading the path of evil and aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. At 1230 [0930 GMT] today, our daring Air Force planes dealt devastating blows to two large maritime targets south of Khark Island, scoring accurate, direct hits, thus tightening the siege around Khark and the other Iranian ports. All our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. The brave pilots of our helicopter gunships raided five enemy troop concentrations in the Maysan sector, inflicting a number of casualties among enemy troops and destroying one machinegun. Our helicopters returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

3. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration and a number of its positions and weapon emplacements east of Basra, inflicting immense losses. Our units killed five; destroyed three infantry positions, an emplacement for a tubular launcher, an emplacement for a medium machinegun, one hardware stockpile, and one observation post; and damaged one excavator. 4. With outstanding courage, a group of our heroic fighters ambushed an enemy supply route in the northern sector. Two enemy vehicles approached the ambush and our fighters opened fire destroying the two vehicles and killing or capturing a number of enemy soldiers.

5. A machinegun emplacement was destroyed in the central sector.

6. The mean enemy shelled a number of civilian areas near Basra with heavy artillery injuring a child and another citizen, and damaging some civilian establishments and two houses.

[signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 December 1984

21-22 Dec Clashes Noted

JN221739 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,688 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 22 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Iranian regime, which rejected and continues to reject all international calls for peace and for solving the conflict by peaceful means, is affirming its aggressive path and its refusal to abandon it. The Iranian regime will reap only further losses and frustration. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our brave helicopter pilots attacked three enemy troop concentrations in the Maysan sector this afternoon, destroying them and inflicting great losses on enemy equipment. Our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Using artillery and other weapons, our forward units engaged a number of selected enemy positions and troop assembly points and pounded its vehicles and engineering equipment east of Basra, scoring direct hits. Our units killed six troops and destroyed three vehicles, two hardware stockpiles, and one observation post.

3. Using artillery, our forward units pounded enemy troop concentrations and a number of enemy targets in the Maysan sector, destroying one machinegun and one observation post, killing those manning it. Two vehicles were seen trying to evacuate the enemy casualties. One of them was put out of action and the other fled.

4. Our artillerymen directed their fire at enemy positions and equipment in the central sector, scoring effective hits. One hardware stockpile was destroyed.

5. Our men attacked enemy positions and troop concentrations in the northern sector with heavy artillery and other weapons, killing five and destroying one medium machinegun.

6. The mean enemy shelled Basra suburbs with heavy artillery this morning, injuring a child and damaging two houses.

[signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 December 1984

Further Fighting Reported

JN231731 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,689 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Whenever the ignorant Iranian rulers advance further along the road of evil and aggression, the brave and glorious men of Iraq get stronger. Through their capable actions, the Iraqis assert that the will of rights, justice, and peace must triumph and that the stray clique which antagonized peace and Islam will only reap defeat and loss. The results of the activities in the operational sectors for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our brave artillery units pounded enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Maysan sector, scoring direct hits and inflicting large losses in personnel and equipment. They killed eight enemy troops, wounded others, and destroyed four infantry positions.

2. One of our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration, several positions, and engineering units in the operational sector east of Basra, killing two, wounding others, destroying one medium machinegun emplacement, and crippling the enemy's engineering activities.

3. A group of our heroic fighters fired on an enemy troop concentration and vehicles in the northern sector of the operational threater, killing two and hitting one vehicle.

4. One enemy soldier was killed in the central sector of the operational theater.

5. This morning, the spiteful enemy shelled a civilian area in the Basra environs with heavy artillery, wounding one civilian and damaging one house.

[signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 December 1984

AL-THAWRAH Warns Iran Against New Aggression

JN220700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0633 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper has stressed that any new Iranian aggression will prompt Iraq to strike at and completely destroy Iranian targets and vital economic installations deep inside its territory.

In an editorial today, *AL-THAWRAH* says that the Iranians are massing troops and preparing for a new adventure against Iraq's territory. It asserts that crushing and devastating blows will continue to be dealt to the heads of the Iranian aggressors and to their ground and sea targets. It points out that Iraq will encounter the next Iranian aggression with blows that will inflict greater destruction and disasters on Iran than ever before.

Regarding the Iraqi siege of Khark Island and the other Iranian ports, *AL-THAWRAH* says: This siege is decisive, conclusive, and continuous. It notes that the Iranians are completely impotent to break or penetrate this siege.

Concluding, the paper affirms the Iraqis' ability to uproot aggression and crush the heads of the covetous aggressors — the rulers of Iran — who are trying to harm Iraq's sovereignty, security, and honor.

AL-THAWRAH on 'Destructive Weapons,' Khark Siege

JN241135 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Dec (INA) — *AL-THAWRAH* today asserts that Iraq will use destructive weapons to end the Iranian military option to continue the war.

In a study, the paper says that Iraq will continue to deal strong blows against positions which enhance Iranian military capability. It will escalate the siege of Khark Island and the Iranian ports as well as economic centers inside Iran.

The paper adds: The intensity of the siege will vary according to war developements. This stems from the Iraqi command's ability to utilize economic methods in the war without jeopardizing trade in the region or international interests that are connected to the economies of the Arab Gulf littoral states.

The paper explained that the Iraqi siege of Khark Island and the resulting effective air strikes against tankers and maritime targets in the operational zone imply further future pressure on mobile targets and stationary oil installations on the island and deep in the Iranian mainland.

Refering to the Iraqi siege of Khark Island, *AL-THAWRAH* indicates the negative effects of the siege on the Iranian economy and on the attitude of foreign companies toward Iran. The paper notes Iran's deteriorating oil revenues, the rising rates of debt and inflation, and escalating economic and social problems.

The paper notes increasing international concern toward this region and the statements by the superpowers on safeguarding international interests in the region.

The paper concludes by asserting that Iraq will not rescind its decision, and that it will use force and firmness against all attempts to reduce the efficiency of this siege, to render it meaningless, or to end its short- and long-term effects on Iran.

INA: Hassan, Mubarak, Husayn To Visit U.S.

JN231416 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, 23 Dec (INA) — King Hassan II, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and King Husayn of Jordan will visit the United States during the second half of February and the beginning of March next year.

The magazine (*AL-YAWM AL-SABI'*), to be published here tomorrow, says that the visit of the three Arab officials, which will come on separate dates, aims at breaking the political stalemate in the Middle East and at discussing the possibility of

convening an international peace conference with the participation of the big powers and the PLO. This is the plan the U.S. Administration had previously declared through Murphy, its envoy to the region. [sentence as received]

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Decisions

JN211456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1402 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, 21 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has described the latest results reached by the OPEC oil ministers as more serious than the previous ones. He said the latest results reflect the desire of the OPEC countries to maintain stability in the oil market. In a predeparture statement to the INA correspondent in Geneva, the minister noted that discussions among the ministers over the past 2 days revealed OPEC's desire to overcome the current crisis in the oil market and adhere to the agreed-upon level of production and prices. He said the ministers decided to stick to the present production ceiling, which is 16 million barrels per day, and to lay down strict rules to check production quotas and prices within OPEC. The minister said that previous OPEC decisions were merely reactions to market changes, but the new decisions are just the opposite. He added that if the recent decisions are implemented, OPEC will regain its former strong position.

On the suggestion of holding a summit conference for OPEC countries, the minister said that the idea was proposed by the UAE delegation but did not receive sufficient support because such a high-level conference requires a long period of preparation. The present situation in the oil market requires speedy measures. The minister denied that Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait rejected the summit proposal and added that the need for quick decisions was the reason for the lack of interest in the idea, which appeared during the conference and disappeared for the above reasons.

Concluding his statement, Taqi expressed the hope that the member-states will adhere to their quotas and the official price, affirming that this adherence will lend credibility to OPEC's decisions.

'Arafat Arrives in Amman, Makes Statement

JN230755 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman at dawn today on a visit to Jordan that will last several days during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

He was received at Amman airport by Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories affairs; and Aktham al-Qusus, assistant chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry. He was also received by 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Najib al-Ahmad, director of the commander in chief's office in Amman and deputy commander of the Badr Forces; Lieutenant Colonel Abu al-Tayyib, commander of Force 17; Salim Shahin, assistant representative of the Executive Committee in Amman; and 'Ala' al-Din Husni, PLO charge d'affaires in Amman.

In a statement to journalists, 'Arafat said that the PLO Executive Committee meetings arrived at important decisions and that a committee has been formed to initiate an open dialogue with the brother Jordanian officials on the formula His Majesty King Husayn proposed at the opening ceremony of the 17th PNC session. He said: My recent tour which included 12 Arab countries was aimed at speeding up the convening of the Arab summit conference in order to confront the challenges facing our Arab nation.

Husayn Receives Yasir 'Arafat

JN231936 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at Al-Nadwah Palace this evening PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Ahmad 'Ubaydat, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the court minister; Staff General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Tahir al-Masri, minister of foreign affairs; Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories; and Raja'i al-Dajani, secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court.

It was attended on the Palestinian side by His Excellency Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the PNC speaker; Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces and Fatah Central Committee member; 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Fahd al-Qawasmi, PLO Executive Committee members; and Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member.

King, Army Chief See Chinese Military Visitor

JN221953 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, visited the Jordanian Armed Forces General Command this afternoon. He was received upon arrival by Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the chief of staff and his assistants.

His majesty met with the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and during the meeting, the king discussed issues related to the Armed Forces and gave his wise instructions.

During the visit, his majesty also met with the Chinese delegation that is currently visiting Jordan. The delegation is led by He Zhengwen, deputy chief of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Later, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces received at his office He Zhengwen and the military delegation accompanying him. The chief of staff and the Chinese ambassador in Amman attended the meeting. The delegation was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

Greens Party Delegation Arrives 23 Dec

JN240900 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — A seven-member delegation representing the West German Greens Party arrived in Amman Sunday for a three-day official visit to Jordan during which the delegation members are expected to hold talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and other officials. Informed sources also said they may meet Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat who also arrived in Amman Sunday. The delegation, which includes Miss Brigitte Heinrich and (Jurgen Reents), members of the West German Parliament (Bundestag), is on the third leg of a Middle East tour which also took them to Syria and Lebanon. The delegation members will proceed to the occupied West Bank to gain firsthand information about the situation there and meet with Palestinian leaders if they were permitted by the Israeli authorities to enter the occupied territories.

Brunei Sultan, Delegation Depart 21 Dec

JN211243 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei and his wife Her Highness Princess Mariam as well as the delegation accompanying them left Amman this morning following an official 3-day visit to Jordan. His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur headed those who saw the two important guests off. The two guests were accorded an official sendoff at Amman Airport. The band played the Bruneian and Jordanian royal national anthems, and a 21-gun salute was fired in honor of Jordan's guests. His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah reviewed a guard of honor consisting of representative units from the army, navy, and air force.

His majesty the sultan and his wife were also seen off by their royal highnesses Prince Muhammad, the personal representative of his majesty the king; Princess 'Aliyah; Princess Zayn, and Princess 'Ayishah. They were also seen off by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the

chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, the ministers, the mayor of the capital, and senior civilian and military officials.

Joint Communique Issued

JN211949 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1810 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] The following joint statement was issued at the end of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's official visit to Jordan:

His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei and Her Royal Highness Mariam, daughter of Al-Haj 'Abd al-'Aziz, payed an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 19 to 21 December, 1984, at the invitation of His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur.

The visit of his majesty the sultan, her royal highness, and the high-level delegation accompanying them has given their majesties and the Jordanian people and government a chance to express their deep respect and appreciation for his majesty the sultan, her royal highness, and the Bruneian people and government.

During this visit, his majesty the king and his majesty the sultan held expanded talks in a friendly atmosphere attended on the Bruneian side by the minister of communications and law, the personal adviser to the sultan, the aide-de-camp, and the acting permanent secretary of the prime minister's office; and on the Jordanian side by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, King Husayn's personal representative; Ahmad 'Ubaydat, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, the Royal Hashemite Court Chief; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the court minister; and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and other issues of mutual interest. Attention was focused on Islamic affairs and interests in light of the two countries' membership in the ICO. They agreed to intensify efforts to increase cooperation among the Islamic states. They also agreed that the methods of such a cooperation recommended by the ICO meetings should be honestly applied in the interest of all parties.

Reviewing the situation in the Middle East, the two sides expressed their deep concern over the continued Israeli occupation of Arab land since 1967, and strongly opposed Israel's attempts to change the Arab and Islamic features of the occupied territories. They also considered the establishment of Jewish settlements and the presence of Jewish settlers in the occupied Arab territories as illegal, a violation of international law, and a threat to all peace prospects in the region. They also strongly condemned Israel's measures to empty the occupied territories of their inhabitants, and considered Israel's step to annex Jerusalem and the Golan Heights as null and void. They called on the international community to put an end to the Israel occupation that lasted 17 years and to compel Israel to abandon its illegal measures in the occupied Arab territories.

The two sides affirmed that establishing a just and permanent peace as well as a comprehensive settlement for the Middle East dispute can only be realized through a just solution to the Palestinian problem, which is the crux of the conflict. Based on the international legitimacy as stipulated in the UN resolutions, the two sides agreed that the bases for such a solution are spelled out in UN Security Council Resolution No 242, which implies the impermissability of occupying territory by force and the need for Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967. The important principles in this resolution; namely, territory in exchange for peace and the right of the Palestinian people to decide their fate on their national soil, represent a just, peaceful solution to the Middle East dispute, taking into consideration the legitimate rights of all parties concerned.

The sultanate is fully aware of the immense responsibility Jordan is shouldering along the longest confrontation line with Israel, and calls for extending the maximum help possible to Jordan in order to help it carry out its commitments.

The two sides agreed on the need to exert all possible efforts to ensure Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Lebanese areas. They support all efforts to spread government authority and ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

The two sides expressed grave concern over the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. This war, which has entered its 5th year, has caused immense losses in men and material for the two Muslim, neighboring states. It constitutes a grave danger to the region's security and stability and opens the way for foreign intervention. They also expressed their regret for the failure of all the mediation efforts to stop the bloodshed, and voiced their utmost concern that the appropriate UN Security Council resolutions have neither been implemented nor taken seriously. The two sides urgently appeal to both the Islamic Republic of Iran and to Iraq to end the war so that a settlement might be reached which guarantees the legitimate rights of the two sides and lays the foundation of good neighborly relations based on mutual respect and noninterference in each other's affairs.

The two sides pointed with satisfaction to the constructive role of ASEAN member-states and praised these states' efforts in strengthening peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

The two sides reviewed the relations of the two countries and expressed their complete satisfaction with the friendly and fraternal ties that bind the people in the two countries. They agreed on expanding cooperation in the various fields with the aim of realizing mutual interests. In order to realize this objective, the two sides decided to continue regular consultations on the ministerial level in order to define and develop possible future cooperation. The two sides have decided to establish diplomatic relations between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Brunei Darussalam. It has been agreed to take the necessary measures to implement this decision as soon as possible.

The Jordanian side expressed its desire to allocate seats in the Jordanian universities and institutions for students from Brunei.

Jordan also expressed readiness to provide Brunei with experts at the request of the Bruneian authorities.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the friendly atmosphere that characterized their constructive, successful discussions. The Sultan of the State of Brunei Darussalam Hassanal Bulkiah expressed his deep gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, and the people and government of Jordan for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him, Her Highness Mariam, and the accompanying Bruneian delegation.

The sultan and her highness extended a warm invitation to His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur to visit the State of Brunei Darussalam, and the invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Foreign Minister Raps ICO Resolutions

JN231505 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri to Amman radio and carried within the "Newsreel" program; passages within quotation marks recorded — date and place not given]

[Text] In his assessment of the ICO resolutions, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri said: "The meeting of more than 38 Islamic foreign ministers was an opportunity to hold talks on many issues that concern the Muslims and their countries. However, The talks did not go beyond this. The ICO meeting discussed the volatile Islamic and Arab issues such as the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Palestinian cause, the problems of Lebanon and Afghanistan, and the Cypriot issue. As you heard on the news, Iran rejected any Islamic mediation to end the war, despite all the efforts exerted by many delegations, especially the Saudi, YAR, and the Pakistani delegations.

"Regarding the other issues, the previous resolutions were confirmed. Egypt returned to the ICO and occupied its seat for the first time since its membership was frozen. The Egyptian delegation was welcomed by many delegations, with the exception of a few. I would like to point out here that the problems from which the unanimous Arab action is suffering, the unanimous Islamic action is also suffering. The delegations did not pay the requisite attention to the items on the long agenda which included more than 100 items. The majority are silent. The resolutions are routine, long, and formal, and nobody is concerned about implementing these resoltuions. These resolutions have become ink on paper. The ICO Secretariat does not follow up the implementation of the resolutions. The ICO creates and establishes many subcommittees whose budgets are spent on salaries and administrative expenses. Few expenses are spent in the service of the purposes of these institutions. The expenses and budgets of all these organizations and institutions have become a heavy burden on the budgets of the member states. The inflation from which the United Nations is suffering is moving to the ICO whether it is administrative, financial, or political. A new spirit should be given to the ICO. We conveyed this viewpoint to the delegations through the speech I delivered before the conference. We will continue to explain our viewpoint to the new secretary general. Regarding the other resolutions, especially the political resolutions, I do not believe they will have an influential impact in the international arena and in the Islamic arena itself."

Answering a question on the resolution adopted by the conference on the Iraqi-Iranian war — the resolution that was described as reconciliatory and did not condemn Iran or praise Iraq because Iran rejected the peace plans and Iraq cooperated with the Islamic offices, the foreign minister said: "The majority of the Islamic countries want to keep the bridges with Iran open. Regrettably, these countries do not believe that this stand will lead to any result with a country like Iran. Iraq explained many of its moderate stands, and many Arab delegations supported the Iraqi viewpoint. I have said in my answer to the first question that even the Islamic countries will not implement these resolutions nor will these resolutions have an influential impact on them."

Answering a question about the resolutions adopted in the conference to confront Israel and whether they constitute a plan of action, Al-Masri said: "This is not new; the decision was repeated before. This decision does not have a plan of action. I do not believe that the Islamic countries are ready to follow the line presented by the PLO. It was a decision that was presented to them, and they agreed on it."

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Asad Exchange Messages

NC211533 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Lebanese and Syrian Presidents Amin al-Jumayyil and Hafiz al-Asad exchanged messges today on the latest situation in Lebanon in light of the security and political steps that have been taken on the security plan and the Al-Naqurah negotiations. Presidential envoys Michel Samahah and Colonel Simon Qassis returned to Beirut today with a message for President Al-Jumayyil from the Syrian president.

Karami Rejects Israel's Al-Naqurah Demands

NC211320 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Speech delivered by Prime Minister Rashid Karami to a delegation of residents from the southern village of Shab'a in Beirut on 21 December — recorded]

[Excerpts] Good morning. This visit provides an opportunity for us to speak about our affairs and worries. We have many worries as a result of the ordeals and suffering that have been going on for 10 years. We are still trying to emerge from them and achieve what will realize our unity, sovereignty, and liberation. God only helps those who help themselves. Good signs have begun appearing. The Lebanese have become aware that the way to their salvation lies in rapprochement and an end to the conflicts that have cost us dearly.

In the Al-Naqurah talks, we are adhering to principles from which we can never deviate. Irrespective of how much the enemy insists and procrastinates, he will inevitably have to admit what is right. Our minimum demand is total unconditional withdrawal. We know that the enemy is trying to secure from us a signature that will make it possible for him to return through the window if he leaves through the door. He does not recognize the authority of our Army and legitimate forces over our land. We can never accept this. He wants to extend the UNIFIL authority to north of the Al-Litani so that most of our land will be outside our responsibility and authority. We can never accept this. He wants the border area, to a certain depth, to be under the control of Lahd and his enemy collaborators. We can never accept this. Despite all these suspicious and unjust positions, the enemy claims that we are the ones who are hindering the negotiations. This is at a time when we have a serious interest in speeding up the withdrawal of this enemy and ending his occupation.

Regrettably, it is easy to talk, but reality is more important; this reality prompts us to speak frankly about what is happening. We cannot accept anything that detracts from our sovereignty or limits our freedom and responsibility over our land. Together with you, we shall work and struggle until we liberate every inch of our land, including the Shab'a land, up to the internationally recognized borders. We shall do that either through the armistice agreement or the various UN Security Council resolutions. This is our right, and it must be pursued.

We have nothing to give Israel. We have a right which we want to regain from Israel. God willing, with the force of this right we shall get what we want, irrespective of how much they try to evade recognition of this reality. We support the presence of the UN emergency forces, but on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425. This resolution contains a clear provision regarding the task and operations area of these forces. We shall work on the basis of these resolutions. Israel's threats will not frighten us.

We believe that Israel will withdraw from Lebanese territory in the not so distant future, God willing. The Shab'a farms will return to their owners, God willing. We hope we will meet in your place on the day of liberation.

Military Council Said To Approve Security Plan

NC231406 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The Military Council today approved the coastal and Iqlim al-Kharrub security plan in its final form.

The Council's sources noted that a positive atmosphere prevailed during the Military Council's emergency meeting, which was attended by all its members and representatives of the parties concerned.

The sources said that the plan has been referred to the Cabinet for consideration and approval and for setting the zero hour for its implementation.

It was learned that the Cabinet will discuss the plan and that it will fix Thursday or Friday as a date for implementing the plan in the field.

Junblatt, Birri Reaffirm Stand on Security Plan

NC221811 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] A meeting was held tonight attended by former ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt; Ayyub Humayyid, the Amal movement's representative on the Security Arrangements Committee; Faruq al-Barbir, adviser to Minister Salim al-Huss; and Akram Shuhayyib. The meeting was devoted to appraising the latest contacts concerning the implementation of the Iqlim al-Kharrub and coastal security plan.

During the meeting, part of which was attended by Chief of Staff Major General Mahmud Abu Dargham, a telephone conversation took place with Walid Junblatt, who requested that the Military Council should draft the final timetable for the plan.

A similar conversation took place with Nabih Birri who, affirmed that the Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party adhere to the concluded agreement and insist that the Military Council should adopt the executive steps for the plan.

PSP Secretary Receives Ceausescu Message

NC221320 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] The Romanian ambassador to Lebanon has visited the main headquarters of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in Beirut and conveyed a reply message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to the PSP secretary general. The message contains affirmation of the need to develop relations between the two sides.

Meanwhile, PSP Secretary General Anwar al-Fatayri sent a cable of condolences to the Soviet Embassy in Lebanon on the death of Dmitriy Ustinov, CPSU Politburo member and defense minister.

Qulaylat on Security Plan, Junblatt, South

NC231458 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Independent Nasirite movement — Al-Murabitun — has said that all security plans will be incapable of achieving any positive results without the participation of Beirut and its citizens.

Brother Qulaylat said: Walid Junblatt's statement regarding myself and Al-Murabitun was a correct revision in the right direction. We are objectively following up the practical application of this revision. He said: Had Junblatt dealt with the repercussions of 12 March — Black Thursday — he would have prevented the exploitation of all that has occurred.

Commenting on Junblatt's statement, Brother Qulaylat said: Walid Junblatt is supposed to be an example of loyalty to the principles and deeds of Martyr Kamal Junblatt.

Regarding the Syrian role in Lebanon, Qulaylat said: Any earnest and honest formula for confrontation must be based on the formation of a steadfastness and confrontation front.

Regarding the situation in the south, Brother Qulaylat said: We reject the question of isolating the situation in the south and western Al-Biqa', and we embody this through our struggle in the national resistance front. He added: The national confrontation of the Zionist enemy in Lebanon leads us to reject any proposals aimed at imposing a veto on any formula that will restore the practical and executive alliance of the national Lebanese, Palestinian, and pan-Arab struggle.

Brother Qulaylat was responding to questions by the PRESS NEWS AGENCY.

Mufti on Al-Naqurah Talks, Syrian Efforts

JN240850 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0724 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — The Mufti of the Republic of Lebanon has declared that the deployment of the Lebanese Army along the coastal road from Al-Madfun to Al-Awwali achieves two objectives — security and liberation of the south.

In a comprehensive interview with the newspaper *AL-BA'TH* published today, His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid called for deploying the Army in main, vital Lebanese centers. He also affirmed that the alternative to the failure of the Al-Naqurah military negotiations will be Lebanese national resistance and solid Syrian-Lebanese cohesion.

His eminence referred to Prime Minister Rashid Karami's three no's and said that they express the Lebanese people's will and rejection of Israeli occupation. The mufti strongly denounced the savage massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the Tyre district, saying that this massacre carried out by 4,000 Israeli soldiers had affected seven villages in the south.

His eminence referred to the efforts that have been exerted by Syria under Al-Asad since 1976 to save Lebanon, and said that Syria has foiled all Israel and foreign Western attacks on Lebanon. He affirmed that Syria's pioneering role in Lebanon can only succeed with the assistance of the Lebanese themselves, who must repudiate all divisions. His eminence also referred to Syria's role on the various Lebanese, Arab, Isalmic, and international levels.

His eminence concluded by stressing that the toppling of the 17 May agreement between Lebanon and Israel led to a radical change in the government's attitude toward Lebanon's Arabism, democracy, and true independence.

Franjiyah LE FIGARO Interview Cited

NC221502 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Dispatch by Radio Reporter in north Lebanon — recorded]

[Excerpt] Members of the Joint Security Committee in Tripoli have toured the Army roadblocks, positions, and centers. They have expressed their satisfaction over the implementation of the security plan. They asserted their support for the plan and the Lebanese Army in carrying it out.

In an interview granted to *LE FIGARO*, former President Sulayman Franjiyah says: There would be no loss if the present government should go. This is what I wish now. Under the present circumstances we should have a different government. There *must* be a *government which represents* all the Lebanese with their various communities and factions. The present government is not the type of government we agreed upon in Laussanne.

Responding to a question about the Lebanese-Israeli discussions, Franjiyah says: I am against any dialogue with Israel so long as it does not respect human rights. So long as it does not respect the UN resolutions, I am against any negotiations, rapprochement, and anything else with Israel.

Asked if he considers that Syria must give Israel guarantees on maintaining its security and safety, Franjiyah says: There is no Arab who can guarantee Israel's security. If Syria was not present, Israel would have carried out roles in all Arab countries. He adds: Thanks to Syria, Israel is still isolated. I doubt that Syria will change its opinion after the sacrifices it made.

Ba'th Official on Negotiations, Resistance

PM211017 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 14 Dec 84 p 14

[Report on interview with 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of the Lebanese Arab Socialist Ba'th Party by Mitri al-Hamis in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] In an interview with *AL-BA'TH*, Lebanese Arab Socialist Ba'th Regional Secretary 'Asim Qansub said that the Al-Naqurah negotiations should result in complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal. He emphasized that heroic national resistance, which has proven its effectiveness and has shaken the Zionist entity, is the alternative if the negotiations fail.

At the beginning of the interview Comrade Qansuh talked about the Al-Naqurah negotiations. He said: We support these negotiations as long as they are held within the context of the 1949 armistice agreement and the UN Security Council resolutions. We are against any Lebanese concessions in these negotiations because the purpose of the negotiations is to ensure unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

He added: We also support the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya down to the borders with occupied Palestine. The negotiations so far are proceeding according to plan. They are strictly military and have assumed no political dimensions.

In reply to a question about the role of the UN emergency forces, he said: We support an increase in the size of the emergency forces, and are in favor of them playing a role in support of the Army, not vice versa. We are against extending the deployment of the emergency forces to the contact lines with the Syrian Arab forces in western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya because we do not want these forces to act as disengagement forces.

Answering Yasir 'Arafat's claim that he is suppling the Lebanese national resistance with funds and arms, Qansuh said: These allegations are unfounded and are meant as a cover for his capitulationist designs and as a pretext for the Zionist enemy to act. He is trying hard to hold negotiations with that enemy through Jordan.

We tell 'Arafat that the Lebanese national resistance, which is considered the most significant revolutionary phenomenon of our time, does not need the money and arms of defeatists, and it rejects their cheap claims.

In reply to a question on the future of the National Democratic Front, he said: We are now in the process of holding the national provincial conferences in preparation for the general national congress and the election of a new leadership for the front. The front will meet regularly every Monday. At the end of every meeting it will define its position on the various political, economic, social, and security issues.

The front will play an important political role in Lebanon and will establish the best and strongest ties of alliance with the Amal movement and the Arab liberation forces, especially Syria.

Shelling by 'Junblatt's Gunmen' Reported

NC211543 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Tension has returned to the mountain and Iqlim al-Kharrub. At 1655, Junblatt's gunmen directed tank and rocket fire from the western quarter in 'Alayh and 'Aytat at the positions held by the Army and disengagement forces in Suq al-Gharb and Dahr al-Wahsh.

At 1645, Junblatt's gunmen directed concentrated artillery fire at the rate of five shells per minute at Wadi al-Zaynah from Al-Wardaniyah and Al-Mughayriyah. Sniper fire is still being directed at various areas in the Iqlim.

Clandestine Radio on Intra-Palestinian Clashes

NC211727 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] A security source declared a short while ago that clashes are taking place between pro-'Arafat Palestinians and dissidents in the Burj al-Barajinah camp. Meanwhile, sporadic bursts of gunfire continue to be heard in the vicinity of the Khayrallah gasoline station in Ra's al-Nab'.

Syrian Forces Said Put on Alert; Leave Cancelled

NC231204 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Reports from Al-Biqa' say Syrian forces in Lebanon have been on alert since last night, and leaves have been cancelled until further notice. The reasons for these actions are not clear yet.

Resistance Carries Out 3 Operations in South

NC220630 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] National and Islamic resistance fighters yesterday carried out three operations against enemy military targets in Al-Zahrani, Abu al-Aswad, and Jall al-Bahr. In the Al-Zahrani operation, the enemy lost a military vehicle with three soldiers inside it. In Jall al-Bahr, a number of casualties were inflicted on an enemy position which received direct rocket hits. In Abu al-Aswad, a military jeep was destroyed and its occupants were killed or wounded.

The enemy radio only mentioned the Al-Zahrani operation, saying that a Katyusha rocket fell on the position, and that no one was hurt.

Israeli Patrol Attacked; Sniping in Al-Kharrub

NC220923 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters, using rockets and automatic weapons, this morning attacked an Israeli motorized patrol as it was moving on the Jibal al-Batm road, near Tyre. As

a result, an armored personnel carrier was destroyed and its occupants were hit. As usual, the occupation forces surrounded the area.

One person was killed and another wounded in a shooting incident in the Al-Shakiliyah area, in Sidon, between resistance fighters and the so-called national guard.

In another development, the Iqlim al-Kharrub lines have been witnessing intermittent sniper fire for the past 2 hours.

Two Israeli Patrols Attacked in South

NC241029 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] At 0730 today national resistance fighters detonated an explosive device while an Israeli vehicular patrol was passing along the highway at the juncture to Al-Ghaziyah. The explosion was followed by heavy gunfire.

According to information provided by Al-Ghaziyah inhabitants, the Israeli patrol sustained a large number of casualties, and two jeeps belonging to the Israeli border guard were burned. An Israeli helicopter removed the dead and wounded.

The occupation forces then cut the main coastal road for over 3 hours and launched a large-scale campaign of arrests involving inhabitants and workers in nearby factories and establishments.

The number of those arrested has been estimated at over 200 citizens, 20 of whom were transported to Mar Ilyas detention camp to the east of Sidon, and the rest to Al-Zahrani. Some of the detainees were released later.

At 0700 today another Israeli occupation patrol was attacked on the road to the town of Majdalyun. According to preliminary information, one jeep was destroyed and all its occupants were killed. The occupation forces brought reinforcements to the area, surrounded it, and initiated a large-scale search operation.

Saudi Ban on Imports From Lebanon Lifted

NC231925 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] A responsible source in the National Council for External Economic Relations has announced that Saudi Arabia has cancelled its decision to ban imports from Lebanese factories, apart from those which had been listed, and which comprise 177 factories.

The source said that the council's Chairman Sami Marun received a telephone call tonight from the council's delegate who went to Saudi Arabia for talks with Saudi officials, informing him of the decision to lift the ban. The source said that all factories can now export their products to Saudi Arabia.

Al-Asad Receives Al-Jumayyil's Envoys 21 Dec

JN211221 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Colonel Simon Qassis, director of Lebanese military intelligence, and Michel Samahah, adviser to the Lebanese president. The two Lebanese envoys conveyed a message to the president from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil dealing with matters related to the Lebanese situation and the efforts being exerted to achieve Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territories. The president gave them a reply message within the framework of consultations and exchanges of opinion on matters of mutual concern.

Al-Shar' Grants Interview to Paris Paper

JN231125 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 22 Dec 84 pp 22, 23

[Marwan al-Mahayni dispatch]

[Text] The post of foreign minister has no special importance, particularly in Third World countries. In Syria however, and in view of the important role it assumes in the region, the post of foreign minister acquires a special importance. As everyone admits, Syria now enjoys a unique and distinguished status on the Arab and international level. In view of Syria's commitment to the Arab cause and its constant adherence to its firm policy toward all developments, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's choice of Faruq al-Shar' as foreign minister has many meanings, not the least of which are his being a qualified diplomat, a capable politician, and a committed ideologist. Despite the fact that the Syrian foreign minister is a friend of the press and journalists, as he previously held the post of information minister, he barricades himself behind diplomatic language when he knows that interviews he grants will be published, and any dialogue with him becomes very difficult and painstaking. However, I had some luck with Minister al-Shar' this time, as I succeeded in wresting these answers from him for publication.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How does Syria deal with the obstacles which continue to appear in the face of the salvation march it sponsors in Lebanon? Do you expect security to be reinforced, which would allow Lebanon to pursue the mission of liberating all Lebanese territory?

Al-Shar': We expect the Lebanese Army to deploy on the coast between the Al-Madfun bridge and the Al-Awwali river in the next few days. The obstacles facing the deployment of the 'coastal brigade' have been solved, since Walid Junblatt has expressed understanding and a noticeable readiness to cooperate after President Hafiz al-Asad met him last week. There is no doubt that the Israelis will do everything possible to obstruct the Lebanese Army's deployment in order to prove that this Army is impotent and cannot replace the withdrawing Israeli forces. We are fully convinced that no one in Lebanon will obstruct the deployment of the Lebanese Army, so that the national objective on which agreement has been reached will be achieved. Matters will proceed well, although it is only natural for some obstacles to appear from time to time. The important thing is that the salvation march is an irrevocable process, in spite of the many founderings it may experience.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: The Israelis are threatening to carry out a partial withdrawal if the Lebanese side continues to remain committed to the stand you have mentioned.

Al-Shar': This is a form of Israeli blackmail. Partial withdrawal will have disastrous consequences that will affect the Israelis more than the Lebanese, because the national resistance will pursue the Israelis wherever they may be. We and Lebanon insist on a full and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and the Israelis have come to know this.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: How do you accept the Lebanese negotiating with the Israelis to achieve the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, while you deny King Husayn the same thing in order to achieve Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

Al-Shar': The difference in the two cases is qualitative. In Al-Naqurah, only military talks are being held under UN auspices to achieve a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. If the Israelis procrastinate in withdrawing or if they try to impose any conditions to obtain any political gains in Lebanon, the reply will be the escalation of the Lebanese national resistance operations until Israel gives in and recognizes Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. If we go back to the Amman council, we see that the picture there is completely different.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Syria exerted well-known efforts to contain the Gulf war and to prevent it from spreading to other areas. You carried out several missions and President Hafiz al-Asad has entrusted you to deliver messages to several concerned capitals, the latest being President al-Asad's letter to Saudi King Fahd. Is there a Syrian-Gulf coordination, and when will this war end?

Al-Shar': Let me tell you something. President al-Asad has the ability to predict what will happen in the future. In the messages he sent at the outbreak of the war, President al-Asad stressed that if the Arabs did not succeed in stopping this war from the beginning, they would fail or would find it impossible to stop it in the future. President al-Asad's only subsequent preoccupation has been to prevent this war from turning into an Arab-Persian war that would destroy everything and push the Arabs and the Muslims into an endless dark tunnel. This is an area where we have achieved some success.

Any Arab could imagine the results had this war turned into an Arab-Persian war and every Arab soldier left to fight the Iranians. Israel would be in the Gulf and keys to the oil sources would be in the hands of its soldiers. Thus, I can say that the Syrian stand, whether in trying to prevent this war from the start or in seeking to prevent it becoming an Arab-Persian war, has shown extraordinary vision that will be honorably and brilliantly recorded in Arab and Islamic history in the future.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Have the Franco-Syrian discussions during French President Mitterrand's visit to Damascus crystallized a formula of future bilateral cooperation on the Middle East

crisis or the Gulf war, in which both countries have an interest although each country has its own principles?

Al-Shar': The discussions between President al-Asad and President Mitterrand were important, even if each adhered to his own well-known stand. The important thing about this meeting was to observe closely how the other side thinks and not merely through what the papers say, particularly since some French papers have been trying for the past 2 years to distort Syria's image with the French citizen. President al-Asad discussed Syria's conviction, its adherence to a just peace, and its rejection of the Israeli version of peace that is based on imposing capitulation on the Arabs. President Mitterrand also became aware of the historical relations and common interests between Syria and Lebanon. President Mitterrand also heard many things about some regional issues and the international situation.

President Mitterrand emerged with the impression that nothing can happen without Syria. I had heard this same expression from Greek Prime Minister Papandreou after his meeting with President al-Asad last month. Papandreou told me: Nothing is possible without Syria. No peace is possible in the Middle East without Syria. Papandreou added: This is a guarantee for all the progressive and liberation forces in the Middle East and even in the Mediterranean, because Syria will only agree to a just peace that returns rights to their owners.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Some Arabs say that there is an opportunity that must be seized now to regain the usurped Palestinian rights and land. Why does Syria oppose this move?

Al-Shar': Before answering this question we must ask about the identity of those who say this is the last opportunity for the Arabs and Palestinians to regain their rights. This is in order to determine accurately what the last opportunity means. Clearly, this expression has been appearing in a number of Arab capitals, Tel Aviv and Washington media, and a number of other Western capitals that essentially support the Camp David course. They obviously mean that this is the last opportunity to entrench and expand the Camp David agreements and the last opportunity for capitulation and imposing the U.S.-Israeli conditions on the Palestinian people in particular.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: In light of the Israeli policy of expansion, settlement building, and annexation, do some not have the right to say that the Arabs must not waste the opportunity after 17 years of occupation? What is the alternative in Syria's opinion? Why do you regard this as a last opportuntiy for capitulation and not peace?

Al-Shar': It is really strange that those who remained patient during all these years of occupation suddenly announced that their patience has run out. Why has their patience run out now? Why did their patience not run out when they were in southern Lebanon?

The answer to these questions lies in the following irrefutable fact: Their patience ran out after the collapse of the 17 May agreement, that is, after the statement that calls for peace in exchange for land in Lebanon was proved to be wrong. After this statement was proven wrong the balance of power against Israel began to change for the first time in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Moreover, for the first time a confrontation state — Syria — took the leadership of an Arab stand that is capable not only of rejecting capitulation but also of imposing a just and comprehensive peace on both Israel and the United States. Their patience ran out only after this important strategic transformation in Lebanon.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Observers expect a new Syrian move on the Arab and international levels following the Ba'th Party's eighth regional congress. What are the dimensions and course of such a move? How true are the reports of intensive Syrian contacts with Algeria, Libya, the PDRY, and Iran?

Al-Shar': Syria does not know stagnation. The path it is pursuing is long and difficult. I believe that those who struggle for a major cause are not exhausted by the length of the raod or frightened by the obstacles. We are in constant contact with fraternal capitals and with all the capitals and forces that support our cause. They are too numerous to name.

Al-Shar' Receives FRG Greens Party Delegation

JN231204 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received an FRG Greens Party delegation this morning led by Deputy Juergen (Arnis). The meeting was attended by Sulayman Haddad, head of the West European desk at the Foreign Ministry, and 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, director of information at the Ministry.

The talks revolved around the current political situation in the region in general, and in Lebanon in particular. The FRG delegation expressed the conviction of the need for an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. The foreign minister answered questions by delegation members on the Arab and international situation.

Commentary Raps U.S. Policy, Israel, Arab Regimes

JN211517 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has reiterated its commitments to Israel and has announced through its Secretary of Defense Weinberger that arming the U.S. Army as well as supporting Israel's policies are a U.S. responsibility. Weinberger has admitted that the Israeli soldier is a U.S. warrior and has alleged that the Israeli soldier stands on the first defense line in protecting U.S. interests and those of its West European allies. The U.S. secretary has been very clear in his statements on his country's understanding of the Middle East conflict. He emphasizes that Israel is a strategic U.S. ally in the face of what he calls the Soviet influence in the region. Thus, Washington has found a justification for always supporting Israel.

The U.S. secretary of defense added something new to his statements. Weinberger called on the Arabs to end their conflict

with Israel and Zionism, to convince themselves that Israel is not aggressive, and that the Arabs can avert Israeli evil only through recognizing its power and responding to its demands and desires.

Weinberger also wants to turn Arab land into a U.S. line of defense so the Arabs can win U.S. friendship and sympathy. We believe that the U.S. secretary made these statements only after he was convinced that some Arab regimes have departed from pan-Arab decisions and declared their alliance with the United States and Israel. When he announced that it was time for the Arabs to cooperate with the United States and Israel against the Soviet Union, Weinberger was fully aware that those who carried arms in the past, such as Yasir 'Arafat, have turned into wanderers singing the praise of the United States.

We, the Arabs, who are committed to the cause, know that the U.S. plan to end the Arab conflict with Zionism is an old one, for which Al-Sadat betrayed the martyrs, for which Saddam's regime destroyed Iraq, and for which 'Arafat ignored Palestinian blood and pain. Weinberger's statements did not arouse any reaction from the renegade and deviationist Arabs because these Arabs had never hesitated to turn the Arab land into battlefields for nuclear bombardment [as heard] in order to satisfy the United States and to win its friendship and protection.

The U.S. secretary made his statements only after he was convinced that Richard Murphy had achieved his goals in Amman, Cairo, and Israel,and that some Arabs have assumed the U.S. role in subjecting the pan-Arab decisions to Zionist and U.S. plans. We in this steadfast country have no doubt that the U.S. plan to liquidate the Arab decision cannot be achieved unless Syria is subjugated through all forms of siege and pressures. The United States has always stressed that Syria constitutes a stumbling block, and Israel does not deny that Syria is the only confrontational Arab country. As a result of their alliance, the United States and Israel will exert all their efforts to undermine the Arab decision by dealing a blow to Syria. Hence comes the danger of following the course of U.S. diplomacy.

Under the cover of confronting what the United States calls the Soviet influence in the region, some Arab regimes have allied themselves with both the United States and Israel in order to undermine Arab steadfastness. In order to enable the United States to dictate its conditions to others, the deviationst Arabs have agreed to turn the Arab homeland into a field for international conflict. Despite the present deviation and defection, the Arab masses in the region will continue to adhere to their decisions and will achieve their rights, by stepping up their confrontation until the Arab nation achieves victory and liberation.

Lebanon's Stand at Al-Naqurah Talks Praised

JN240927 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 24 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] On the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations in Al-Naqruah, *AL BA'TH* in its daily editorial says: It has been clear from the beginning that the Israeli negotiator in Al-Naqurah has tried to dodge and procrastinate in order to gain time and impose conditions that the Lebanese negotiator has rejected, and still is rejecting. It has been clear that Israel wants to emerge from the Al-Naqurah talks with a new version of the 17 May agreement.

What is even clearer is Lebanon's rejection of any version that reduces its sovereignty and independence. What Lebanon has proposed is an unconditional withdrawal from its territories. Since Israel does not want to withdraw according to the Lebanese as well as the national and pan-Arab will, it has begun to move its internal agents in an attempt to ruin security and to return with Lebanon to the pre-national government era. Israel has begun to use a great deal of pressure against the Lebanese negotiator, threating partial withdrawal and even unilateral withdrawal. But Lebanon with its national resistance and free will, and which aspires for independence and sovereignty, has rejected extortion and pressure. Lebanon has succeeded in consolidating the internal security plans, and a new factor has imposed itself now more than before; namely, that there are concerted efforts to confront the Zionist challenge. In other words, Lebanon has accepted the challenge. He who has proved his ability to realize the salvation march will prove a greater ability to confront the enemy until the liberation of the entire homeland's soil is achieved.

Pessimism in Jerusalem Regarding Al-Naqurah Talks

TA240741 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The opinion being formed in Jerusalem is that there is no real chance of progress in the Al-Naqurah talks even after 7 January, the deadline set by Israel. UN representative Jean-Claude Aime last weekend reported on the stalemate in the Lebanese stand. Reports coming from Washington indicate that in the talks with Murphy, the Syrians again rejected the continued existence of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] following the withdrawal as well as the deployment of UNIFIL south of the Al-'Awwali. However, Damascus expressed a willingness to continue the contacts with the Americans concerning an arrangement in southern Lebanon. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

Reports coming from Beirut and Damascus strengthen the assessment that by mid-January, Jerusalem will be faced with making a decision on its moves in southern Lebanon, and that it will have to make this decision on its own, without the help of the Syrians or the Lebanese. Last weekend, UN representative Jean-Claude Aime was at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, where he briefed officials about the stalemate in the Lebanese stand. Beirut blames Israel for the failure of the Al-Naqurah talks, naming Jerusalem's attachment to the ASL and Israel's contempt for the capabilities of the official Lebanese Army as the reasons for the deadlock.

Jerusalem has only indirect information on Murphy's talks in Damascus, based on one remark made by Ambassador Lewis and comments made this week by U.S. Administration officials. Murphy himself did not take the trouble to come back and report on the talks. According to the disclosed details, the Syrians rejected both the deployment of UNIFIL between the Al-'Awwali and the Al-Zahrani and the existence of the ASL.

Jerusalem officials last night expressed deep disappointment with the results of the accelerated shuttle mission. The reason for the disappointment lies not only with the negative replies heard by Richard Murphy, but also with the fact that Israel still does not know what Damascus really wants. The Syrians did not define their position, except for their demand that Israel not be given any achievement in Lebanon. Murphy was told in Damascus that Syria is willing to continue its contacts with the Americans on the Lebanese issue, and therefore Jerusalem may make a last minute attempt before 7 January to determine the Syrian position, whether through an Israeli request for another U.S. mission or through the French connection.

Israeli officials yesterday expressed grave doubts about the Americans' willingness to continue their involvement in the Lebanese affair. Political sources in Jerusalem believe that the Syrians' tough stand stems from the situation inside Syria, as well as its relations with the Arab world. The PNC, the return of Rif'at al-Asad to Syria, the Ba'th convention being held these days in Damascus — all these factors push Syria into a defensive political posture, according to this assessment.

In any event, 7 January is approaching, and this date also represents a certain ultimatum to ourselves. In yesterday's Cabinet session, Shim'on Peres tried to blur the differences, but there is no doubt that there are differences between the Alignment and Likud concerning the appropriate arrangements in southen Lebanon, and they will resurface when the Al-Naqurah recess ends on 7 January and it becomes apparent that the Lebanese are not moving from their position.

Gilbo'a Analyzes Syrian Position on Al-Naqurah

TA220932 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Interview with Brigadier 'Amos Gilbo'a, head of the Israeli military delegation to the Al-Naqurah talks with Lebanon, by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Brigadier General Gilbo'a, after 11 meetings with the Lebanese, what would you say lies behind the Syrian insistence that the Al-Naqurah talks yield nothing for the moment?

[Gilbo'a] I would not say that the Syrians are insisting that nothing be reached; they insist that no conclusions or agreements that grant Israel some political gain be reached. This is the *fundamental Syrian position: not to allow Israel to enjoy any* political achievement as a result of the Peace for Galilee Operation. It is a clear Syrian interest to have Israel withdraw unconditionally to the international border. As part of this Syrian concept, any UNIFIL deployment beyond the area where it is currently deployed is considered a political achievement for Israel. Therefore, they firmly object to a UNIFIL deployment in the area of Sidon, Jazzin, and Jabal al-Baruk.

[Tal] Judging from the points you mentioned here, why would the Syrians actually let Israel have any sort of gains? What would they achieve by doing this?

[Gilbo'a] My personal assessment, even before the talks began, was that the Syrians ought to be interested in an IDF withdrawal, in light of the strategic threat presented by the IDF to Damascus by virture of its deployment.

[Tal] Given the present political circumstances, and taking into account the United States, the Soviet Union — it is almost clear to one and all that the threat you have just mentioned is merely academic and theoretical, is it not?

[Gilbo'a] I do not think so. To the best of my knowledge, the potential embodied in the IDF threat to Damascus constitutes a central factor in determining the Syrian's positions. I would like to emphasize that I am talking about the existing potential, because the Syrians cannot tell what the future will bring, or what the IDF could do today or tomorrow. The very fact that the IDF is stationed some 20-odd km away from Damascus constitutes what I would call a continuous strategic nightmare for the Syrians. Since this is the case, my personal assessment was that in return for removing the threat to Damascus, the Syrians would be prepared to allow Israel to make some achievements in the negotiations.

[Tal] But this has not happened!

[Gilbo'a] I do not know exactly what were the reasons that led to the Syrians' extreme intransigence. There are two possible reasons for this: The first is that it may very well be that my initial personal evaluation of the situation was wrong; the second — which seems more plausible to me — is that the present state of affairs, created over the past month or the last few weeks, led to greater Syrian inflexibility. By that I mean two sets of events. The first, the inter-Arab scene, including 'Arafat's success — to a greater or lesser extent — in holding the PNC conference in Jordan; the resumption of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt; the reestablishment of diplomatic ties between Iraq and the United States — I think that all these occurrences in the Arab world have resulted in Syria feeling isolated. Naturally, in a state of isolation they have no intention of granting any concessions to Israel. The second is the Syrian domestic scene. The Syrians are now beginning a process leading to a formal contest to choose Al-Asad's successor. If this is to be determined at all, it will be decided by the national Ba'th Party convention. It stands to reason that in this internal state of affairs, with a competition going on, the Syrians will not demonstrate any readiness for concessions, but the contrary: They will show inflexibility.

[Tal] Why should the Syrians fear a unilateral move in southern Lebanon by Israel?

[Gilbo'a] I believe they probably think a unilateral withdrawal of our forces could result in instability in Lebanon — of course, in addition to the current instability — which means problems for Syria. That is because at the moment Syria is in fact embroiled in the Lebanese scene, and it is the major influence. As such, their main desire is to have peace and quiet there, and have no problems. Any resumption of a conflagration within Lebanon immediately causes problems for the Syrians, because they will have to handle the situation — and they do not want to do that.

Urquhart To Urge Greater UN Role on Regional Visit

TA231820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart will come to this region in the middle of next month in order to try to persuade the parties involved in the conflict in Lebanon to grant the UN forces a central role in future arrangements. This was reported by our political correspondent, who notes that Israel is awaiting Lebanon's response to the question of whether it would accept the deployment of a UNIFIL unit north of the Litani River. Thus far, Syria — and consequently also the Lebanese Government — has opposed this idea.

Jerusalem: UNIFIL Countries Threaten Withdrawal

TA240536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] Some of the countries participating in the UN forces in southern Lebanon announced that they will withdraw their troops if no agreement is reached between Israel and Lebanon in the near future. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that this ultimatum was conveyed to Beirut and Jerusalem. Norway, Finland, Ireland, and Fiji have announced that they believe that the Al-Naqurah talks, in their present form, are a waste of time, and that the parties should attempt to secure the political basis necessary for an agreement as soon as possible.

Our correspondent reports that in 2 weeks UN Under Secretary General Brian Urquhart will bring a compromise proposal for UNIFIL deployment on both sides of the Litani River. Lebanese Army units would reinforce UNIFIL north of the river and maintain a token presence on the southern side.

Moda'i Denies U.S. Deferral of Emergency Aid Request

TA221932 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] This evening Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i absolutely denied the reports that the U.S. Administration has deferred Israel's request for emergency aid. The finance minister said this to our correspondent on economic affairs Hayim Plattner, after he had held talks this evening with his ministry's director general, Dr 'Imanu'el Sharon, who heads the Israeli delegation to the talks in Washington. However, Mr Moda'i refused to detail the contents of the U.S. Administration's answer to the Israeli request.

Country Reportedly to Receive More U.S. Military Aid

TA230716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Israeli delegation to aid talks in Washington returned over the weekend, with reports saying that Israel would be granted a several million dollar increase in military assistance during the next fiscal year. In Washington, observers believe that Israel will eventually be given most of the military and economic assistance it needs from the United States, but they say funds will not be forthcoming without some solid signs of economic reform in Israel.

Finance Ministry: U.S. To Discuss Aid Request

TA241226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Finance Ministry has said that the Washington administration is to begin discussing Israel's aid request within the next few days. This has been reported by our correspondent Gadi Sukenik. The Israeli economic delegation to the talks returned to Israel today.

Our correspondent also reports that the finance minister is now holding a talk in his office with the members of a special advisory committee he has established. The discussion is dealing with the state of the economy.

Early December Price Increases Reported

TA231524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The prices of most goods computed in the consumer price index basket did not go up in the first 2 weeks of December. This transpires from the first bimonthly statistical report published by the Central Bureau of Statistics. It turns out, however, that where prices nevertheless increased, this was usually the outcome of the influence of last month, carried over to this month — and stood at approximately 2.5 percent.

Food prices went up by only 0.6 percent. Clothing and footwear prices, those of furniture and household equipment, as well as expenses for cultural and entertainment events, rose by an average 2 percent. In the health column, it turned out that in those 2 weeks private doctors raised the fees collected for their services by approximately 7 percent, in spite of the freeze. Dentists, on the other hand, lowered their fees by about 2 percent.

Our economic affairs correspondent Gadi Sukenik says that if no changes are introduced into the freeze plan, there is hardly any doubt that the December index will truly reflect the optimistic expectations of the Finance Ministry, and will not exceed 10 percent.

Peres Comments on December Price Rises; U.S. Aid

TA231833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1730 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said he is pleased with the data on prices that were published today. He made this remark in an address to the Jerusalem workers council at a meeting marking the 64th anniversary of the establishment of this council. Moshe Nussbaum reports from the broadcasting van:

[Nussbaum — live] Prime Minister Peres addressed the heads of the Jerusalem workers associations and talked mainly about the economy. He referred to the statistics issued this afternoon on the December price increases, and also to reports alleging that the U.S. Administration is not prepared to approve the entire Israeli aid request.

[Begin Peres recording] This evening we heard on the radio the good news on the package deal, which appears to be far better than we had anticipated. I would therefore like to give credit where credit is due, and primarily compliment the public. The media was skeptical; in top government echelons there were arguments about it — and I will later dwell on other arguments that are going on — but the public took it seriously and turned it into a success. I am very proud of our colleagues, and our public.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say one more thing, regarding the United States. The United States is a good friend of ours. I believe Secretary of State Shultz' demand that we present a plan is not to put pressure on us, but is designed for our own good, as he sees it. I believe it is the U.S. Government's right to conduct a dialogue with us on the economic issue as well. What I would like to tell you is that the recovery of the economy has to do with us, not with Washington. Washington can help — as I hope it will — and here, too, all the rumors that have spread alleging that the decision has been made to prevent us from receiving aid are the same rumors as those that were spread prior to the package deal. I believe we will receive aid from the United States. I think that we will be able to supply what the United States is requesting. This is not the problem. The recovery of the economy is entirely within our hands. [end recording]

Later, Peres enumerated four factors on which the economic recovery depends: stability in the standard of prices and the level of wages; the retraining of workers from the services sector to the productive sector without causing unemployment; cutting expenses and slashing subsidies; and renewing economic growth. These are the prime minister's prerequisites for the success of the economic plan.

Cabinet Approves Ministers; Shamir on U.S. Aid

TA231053 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1025 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] A four-man ministerial committee, including the industry and trade, the finance, the labor and social affairs, and the energy and infrastructure ministers, will examine the proposals to resolve the ATA textile plant's financial crisis. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel notes that in its weekly meeting today, the Cabinet did not discuss proposals for resolving the crisis at this plant.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of Yitzhaq Peretz as interior minister and the appointment of Yosef Burg as religious affairs minister. The agreement regulating the division of powers between the two ministries has also been approved.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir denied during the Cabinet meeting that the United States has rejected the request to grant Israel additional aid. Mr Shamir said that in his last talk with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz it was indeed made clear that Israel would have to present its economic plans so as to receive additional aid, but no doubt was cast on the actual receipt of such aid.

Further on Cabinet Session

TA231120 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Shamir has denied reports that the United States has rejected Israel's request for additional aid. These remarks were made by Cabinet Secretary Yosi Beilin when he summed up its weekly session.

[Begin Beilin recording] Today the Cabinet expressed its concern in light of the troubling deterioration in the attitude of the Soviet authorities toward aliyah [immigration] activists, the serious physical harm done to Yosef Berstein, and the arrest of Yuli Edelstein on trumped-up charges. The Cabinet has appealed in the past and continues to appeal now to international government and bodies and has asked them to intervene in this issue.

The Cabinet heard a briefing by the vice prime minister and foreign minister about his meetings in the United States and Latin America. The minister made plain that, contrary to various reports, the United States has not refused to increase aid to Israel. The defense minister reviewed the latest developments concerning the negotiations at Al-Naqurah. The review was made in the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

The Cabinet approved the inclusion of Knesset Member Yitzhaq Peretz in the Cabinet as the interior minister and the appointment of Minister Yosef Burg as the religious affairs minister. [end recording]

Court Lifts Gag Rule on U.S. Embassy Incident

TA231203 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1145 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The Tel Aviv Magistrates Court is now allowing the publication of details of the security incident. The ban on publication had been in force for nearly 3 weeks. The reference is to an attempt by Gaza Strip Arabs to attack the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv with explosives. The attack was prevented by the security forces a short while before it was going to be carried out. The intention is to try the Arabs who were caught. The president of the court, Yitzhaq Revivi, gave the court's permission to publish details of the affair following a request by *HA'ARETZ*. The court prohibited the publication of the names of the suspects involved as well as the type of the sabotage materials they possessed.

Suspects Admit Guilt

TA231340 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The people suspected of having organized to attack the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv have admitted their intention. They have also admitted that they had prepared to commit other acts of sabotage elsewhere. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the police are holding six suspects, all of them residents of Gaza who worked occasionally in Tel Aviv. They surveyed the U.S. Embassy and planned to commit the attack on 2 December. Detectives from the Hayarqon District police force arrested several members of the squad that same day and their colleagues were arrested a few days later. Weapons were found in their possession. Our correspondent Ben Eshel adds that before that squad was exposed, the U.S. Embassy had begun to examine the possibility of transferring its building to another site. In the meantime, new security arrangements are being instituted there. The entire affair was publicized abroad last week and banned for publication in Israel: It was only this morning that publicity was permitted.

Bar-Lev Comments on Incident

TA231218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] A Tel Aviv court today allowed publication of a report that the security forces prevented a terrorist attempt to attack the U.S. Embassy about a month ago. Four Gaza Strip residents were detained. Following publication of details about the affair in the United States, Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said that the terrorist group was not sophisticated or a serious threat. Our correspondent notes that since the squad was uncovered, security measures around the embassy have been stepped up.

Peres on Lebanon; Bar-Lev on U.S. Embassy Affair

TA231346 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1336 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Today Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said there is full agreement in the Cabinet on the Lebanese issue. In reply to a question addressed to him by Minister Moshe Arens at the Cabinet session this morning, Peres said the government intends to bring the IDF home after guaranteeing security measures that include the existence of the army of southern Lebanon and a UNIFIL redeployment. As long as no other decision is made, the prime minister said, this is the policy of all of us.

Also during the Cabinet session, Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev reported on the plan to attack the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv by a group of Arabs from Gaza, who had also planned to attack other targets. In reply to a question by Minister Burg about the communications affair that accompanied the revelation, Bar-Lev said the police had asked for a blackout for the investigative purposes, but when the *WASHINGTON POST* correspondent called him, he saw fit to respond.

AL-QUDS on Murphy's Statement, U.S. Stance

JN231819 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Dec 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Reflections on Murphy's Statements"]

[Text] Observers are unanimous that U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's statements following his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo 3 days age have reflected negatively on his tour and on his visit to Amman in particular. Although the purpose of the U.S. envoy's current tour is to give momentum to the Lebanese-Israeli military talks in Al-Naqurah, he made statements in which he reiterated the U.S. position that rejects the idea of convening an international conference to achieve a comprehensive settlement — a position that is fully consistent with Israel's call for unilateral settlements and separate agreements with the Arab countries.

Although the developments in Lebanon have led to a semblance of a disengagement between the Lebanese crisis and the Middle East as a whole, and although Syria managed to possess a number of winning Lebanese cards, the link between the the Palestinian question and the Lebanese problem — and even the Israeli occupation of the Golan — is a fait accompli. The United States has agreed that many international parties should participate in

solving the Lebanese crisis, but insists on preventing those parties, including the PLO, from participating in comprehensive settlement or in any effort to achieve a just solution to the Palestinian question.

Therefore, Jordan and Egypt, which issued a joint statement following King Husayn's visit to Cairo ealier this month to express their belief that convening an international conference based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is the best solution to the region's crisis, are calling for a change in the U.S. position that has remained unchanged for the past 10 years. The continuation of this position is considered a solid barrier that is hampering the recent, serious Arab moves. U.S. insistence on monopolizing peace efforts without succeeding in breaking the current stalemate will certainly undermine the small chances that appear on the horizon to achieve a settlement comprising the minimum limit of the just Palestinian demands. There is no doubt that this insistence will not be in the interest of peace, peoples, and countries in and outside the region.

AL-FAJR on U.S. Hostility to Arab Rights

JN231851 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 20 Dec 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Excuses and Reasons"]

[Text] The United States does not need excuses or reasons for their hostility toward Arab rights, particularly our Palestinian people's national rights. The U.S. Administration is satisfied with Arab differences and disputing Arab axes. These differences and disputing axes turn into excuses and reasons in more than one way to serve U.S. interests and programs in the Middle East.

Thus, the U.S. Administration's rejection of an international conference to solve the Palestinian cause under the United Nations' umbrella is based on the existing Arab vacuum. The Arab vacuum allows this rejection to turn into excuses and reasons for not holding an Arab summit. The official Arab stand is simply under the hegemony of the U.S. stand, which is hostile to the Arab nation.

In fact, the PLO is trying at this stage to stop the Arab countries from revolving in the U.S. circle through raising the slogan of a minimum standard of Arab solidarity on the one hand and through determination to hold the international conference on the other. Through Arab solidarity and an Arab summit, holding an international conference will be easier to achieve.

Perhaps, the persistent action to bring Egypt back to the Arab fold is a prominent factor in achieving Arab solidarity. Egypt's return is linked to the stage of Arab confrontation and is an attempt to cut off Egypt's relations with and commitments to the Camp David accords, as Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, has recently noted and as the events in the region assert.

Italy's Spadolini Expected To Visit Soon

TA220635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini will visit Israel next week. He is scheduled to hold talks with Israeli officials as well as to meet with Italian troops serving in UNIFIL in south Lebanon.

Further Reportage on PTA Summit Conference

Kaunda: Secretariat's Performance Improved

MB211908 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has said that almost all posts in the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] secretariat have been filled except for that of internal auditor and senior communications officer. Dr Kaunda, who was given a standing ovation when he started speaking, said (?he was) taking concessional interest rates on loans and an improvement in IMF arrangements for the benefit of all the drought-affected and food aid-dependent countries.

He told the summit, being attended by Ugandan President Milton Obote, Rwandese President Juvenal Habyarimana, Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, and Kenyan Vice President Mwai Kibaki, that the PTA secretariat had dramatically changed for the better with the replacement of key staff. He said the secretary general of the PTA, Ugandan (Jeniano Kingi), was replaced in 1983 by Mr Bax Nomvete, who was recalled from retirement as director of the economic cooperation office of the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA.

Pledging Zambia's support for the secretariat based in Lusaka, Dr Kaunda said the reinforcement of key staff had improved the performance of the secretariat. He said during the year under review, the operational phase of the PTA was launched in Harare, Zimbabwe, and further meetings were held in Lusaka to accelerate the organization's goals of becoming a (?third) regional common market by the year 1982.

Mugabe Presents Report

MB211809 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has urged Preferential Trade Area [PTA] member-states to utilize fully the facilities provided by the PTA clearing house in Harare. Comrade Mugabe was speaking in the Burundi capital, Bujumbura, today when he presented his report on the progress of the PTA in the past year, during which he was chairman.

He said since the clearing house was launched this year the volume of transactions has been low. On the establishment [words indistinct] suspension orders, the prime minister said only four countries have submitted their lists and this has caused the delays in transactions. He said several projects have been identified so far and these must be developed in terms of PTA trade deals. These include iron and steel, chemical fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, building materials, agricultural and livestock products.

President Kenneth Kaunda also spoke at the summit. He said the PTA should be able to cope with natural disasters such as the drought through training, research, data distribution, and exchange of experts betwen member-states.

The Burundi head of state, Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, was unanimously elected the new PTA chairman for the coming year.

Mugabe, Kaunda Condemn RSA

MB220830 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The third summit meeting of the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, being held in the Burundi capital, Bujumbura, is expected to end today. The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, who is the outgoing chairman of the PTA, presented his report to the summit, in which he called for increased trade and sincerity among member states of the organization.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia also spoke at the summit. Comrade Mugabe, Colonel Bagaza, and Dr Kaunda condemned racist South Africa's policy of apartheid. The three leaders criticizied the Pretoria regime for its instrasigence over the Namibian independence question and called for the mobilization of international support for and solidarity with liberation movements in southern Africa.

The minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Richard Hove, who is accompanying Comrade Mugabe at the summit, told a Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation reporter in Bujumbura that the government is to establish a special fund to enable Zimbabwe businessmen to carry out more business within the PTA. Comrade Hove said the businessmen will have to show greater initiative and readiness to export and import before being given allocations.

Summit Deadlocked Over Bank Issue

MB230753 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] The third summit of the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] heads of state and government ends in the Burundi capital this afternoon after the signing of the instructions of agreement by the new PTA chairman, Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. Heads of state went into closed session late last night after a deadlock on the issue on which of the four countries — Swaziland, Kenya, Burundi, and Uganda — should also host a PTA Trade and Development Bank. Malawi and Lesotho withdrew from the competition for hosting the proposed bank before the summit.

The acting secretary general of the PTA, Comrade Bax Nomvete, said although the organization has had several problems and failures, it has also achieved much. She outlined one of the organization's successes as the establishment of a common list of commodities which qualify for preferential treatment. Some of the successes include the launching of the PTA's clearing house in Harare during the middle of this year, the hosting of the fourth workshop of the PTA Chambers of Commerce and Industry in June, and the subsequent establishment of the PTA Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 7 December.

She outlined some of the problems as the failure by member states to publish the PTA tariff column of suspension orders, and difficulties in obtaining licences from authorities by exporters or

importers. The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, is among the heads of state attending the summit.

Summit Decisions

MB230756 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, returned home from Burundi yesterday, where he and five other heads of state and government held the third summit of the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] in Bujumbura.

The 2-day summit agreed that visas should no longer be required from citizens of PTA member states. They agreed to relax visa requirements at present, with a view to abolishing them completely in order to facilitate greater movement and promote economic development. There are 14 member states in the PTA, which groups east and southern African countries.

The summit also agreed that member states should further reduce their tariff rates by 25 percent of the regional tarriffs every 2 years, from October 1986 until the tariffs are removed completely by 1992. Members were also urged to remove the [word indistinct] gradually reduce taxes and foreign exchange transactions and allocate a proportion of their foreign exchange for financing imports from the region.

Addressing a news conference after the meeting, the new PTA chairman, Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza of Burundi, said he had been highly impressed by the high-level and serious discussion. The heads of state and government also appointed Mr Bax Nomvete as secretary general of the PTA for the next 2 years. Mr Nomvete has been acting secretary general.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Comments on Aid to Chad, U.S. Aims

HK230237 Hong Kong AFP in English 0204 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 23 (AFP) - Northern Chad is dependent on Libyan aid because French-backed Chadian President Hissein Habre has shut off all other supplies to the region, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said here Saturday.

At a news conference, he described reports about Libyan troops still being in Chad as an excuse for France to send soldiers back there.

"If that's what France wants, then let it go ahead and take due responsibility," he said.

Col al-Qadhdhafi repeated that those who wanted to check whether Libyan troops had pulled out could go to Chad and see for themselves.

(Libyan-backed Chadian rebel leader Goukouni Oueddei said Thursday that he would not allow French observers in any team checking the northern region under his control. They would be spies for Mr Habre, he said.)

Col al-Qadhdhafi repeated that the United States wanted to sabotage relations between France and the Arab world, especially Libya. France, Libya and Chad must not yield to such blackmail, he said.

He urged British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to take a political decision which he hinted would enable the release of a group of British citizens his government is holding in retaliation for the jailing of Libyans in Britain for alleged "terrorism."

The question of the Libyans detained in Britain was not a legal one, as Mrs Thatcher claimed, but a political one, which meant the problem could be resolved, he said.

Al-Turayki Calls for Jihad To Liberate Palestine

LD211916 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Rabi Awal 29, Dec. 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Dr. 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau, said that jihad (holy war) is the only and right way to liberate and return Palestine to its owners. In a speech before the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Sanaa, Dr. al-Turayki pointed out to the need for earnest action to confront the Zionist occupation. He made clear that the Zionist enemy entrenches its occupation of the Islamic territories at a time submission and surrender by some Islamic regimes is at the increase.

He said, "Despite tens and hundreds of decisions we have taken, we are still weak taking the path of appeals and calls in lieu of jihad prescribed by Islam. [no closing quotation mark received] He stressed that there was no justification for not confronting the enemy and its supporters in accordance with the requirement of holy war in Islam. Dr. al-Turayki hailed the struggle of the Lebanese people which tore up the 17th May agreement of treachery saying that "We should follow the example of the people of that small country which defied Zionism and America proving that it is possible to defeat the enemy, but with the gun and not surrender. [no closing quotation mark received]

Dr. al-Turayki made clear that Jamahiriyah appreciates the role of the great people of Egypt saying that "We will be very pleased to have Egypt and its people with us and very sad to have Egypt in alliance with our enemy which imposed upon it, in difficult circumstances, a policy of surrender. [no closing quotation mark received]

He further said that "Today, we see that there are attempts aimed at getting the Palestinians to adopt a policy of surrender asking them and other Arabs to make further concessions, after our weakness is felt due to lack of unity, impelling them to kneel before the enemy and surrender to it in return for imaginary things and promises from colonial regimes which support the Zionist entity with all their resources".

He pointed out that "The Zionist enemy's attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor is a further proof of the serious danger which this entity poses not only to the Palestinian people or the Arab neighbouring countries but to all of us."

Dr. al-Turayki stressed that "The enemy wants to prevent us from acquiring any scientific or technical progress in an attempt to keep the Arab-Islamic nation in a state of backwardness and disunity to enable itself to eliminate us, through the unlimited support it receives from American imperialism".

Dr. Al-Turayki informed the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference about the aggressive acts being carried out by America against Jamahiriyah saying that "This Islamic country which raises the Islamic flag high will not be frightened by these acts as we will continue to confront the enemies of Islam, surrender and treachery. For we consider jihad, for the word of God and the support of Muslims, everywhere, is a sacred duty".

At the end of his speech, Dr. al-Turayki called for the need to establish a new international economic order free from exploitation giving equal opportunities to all to benefit and realise the objectives based on equality and not on the exploitation and robbery of the resources of small and weaker countries.

MAURITANIA

Nouakchott on Aims of New Government

LD212311 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Colonel Maayouya Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and president of the Republic, made an important speech today in which he declared an amnesty for all those convicted of political crimes. The head of the state pointed out that the national leadership is

committed to the protection of all the individual liberties of all citizens. He pointed out that from now on, Mauritania will adopt an open policy toward the world.

A total of 69 citizens have benefitted from this amnesty.

Here is an ample translation [as heard] of this important speech by our colleague Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Yal [not further identified]:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots: The 10 July movement promised to stop the war, to reform the economic and financial situation, and to lay the necessary foundations for spreading democracy in national life. The movement was faced by an inadequate atmosphere for fulfilling these great aims, an atmosphere characterized by international economic crisis and chronic drought. Faced by this situation, we had no option but to offer more sacrifices, to be stern, and to consolidate national conciliation.

Obviously, in such an atmosphere there is no scope for [word indistinct]. Instead of facing up to this situation with sincere responsibility, an atmosphere characterized by the theft of public funds, squandering, bribery, autocracy, and injustice has recently spread in the country.

The effort to achieve national solidarity, to which you generously contributed, was diverted from its real aims and state funds were very badly used. Confronted by this serious situation, which threatened our country and which contradicted the promises of the Military Committee for National Salvation — the committee which warned against the dangers which might result from such deviations at both the economic and social levels and which called for more sternness and responsibility and for spreading national conciliation and consultation in order to face up to the challenge imposed by current circumstances — confronted by this situation, it was decided to reorganize on 12 December 1984 when the necessary reforms were not carried out.

This reorganization reflects our sure intention to restore confidence in the state through total respect for the laws and regulations which constitute the basis for our society, which guarantee respect for the rights of every citizen, and which specify the duties of every citizen. We also intend to restore confidence in the state through improving the reputation of the state, which should attract respect and appreciation, because this is the best guarantee for liberty and discipline and the best way for fulfilling all our aspirations.

Therefore, responsibility must be respected by every citizen, especially those who shoulder these responsibilities. The national feeling and commitment to national issues must be the firm basis for our activities, because they are the starting point for restoring confidence in the state. Also, restoring good ethics in managing public institutions requires respect for the current administrative and financial regulations in the field of management and the establishment of permanent supervision. We will work hard to select efficient and skillful managers, whose ethics have been tested throughout their careers. We will also apply the principle of punishment and reward. All these are aimed at combatting bribery, favoritism, and influence in trading.

It is important to me that everybody knows that the era of stealing from public funds without punishment has gone forever.

Dear compatriots, we will open the door to greater social justice, through leading the citizens toward equity in opportunities, especially with regard to education, health, and jobs, by consolidating property reforms and by combatting unemployment. The state, by specifying these priorities and with your support and commitment, will ensure its political role as the guardian of public order, individual liberties, the security of citizens, national unity, and cultural prosperity. In the economic field, this will guarantee pushing our economy forward and effectively exploiting our resources through encouraging investment and free initiative. More accurately, by guiding our economy [words indistinct].

History has made our country a land in which civilizations met. The primary role which we can play, and we should play, for bringing people together and spreading peace and conciliation in our region and all over the world, requires a more open policy. We will work toward consolidating understanding and regional and national unity in order to serve our interests and the interests of Africa and the Arab world, but without abandonning our principles and commitments.

In order to enable the national leadership to succeed in transforming these options into tangible reality, all the mobilized citizens in the Structure for the Education of the Masses must be able to exert more effort, responsibility, and commitment. I call on you to do just this. Public order will be preserved and the national interest will be protected in order to serve the nation as a whole, whatever the price might be. The gains of the 10 July movement will be preserved and consolidated, especially the application of Islamic laws, with the spirit of tolerance which is specified in Islam.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Military Committee for National Salvation has issued an amnesty for those convicted of political crimes who are inside or outside the country, hoping that this action will create confidence and liberate all of the nation's abilities. I assure you that any bad intentions toward or obstruction of our march toward progress will never be tolerated. We must be ready to push forward toward the establishment of the bases of a strong and respected state which guarantees liberty and security for the citizens within the framework of real economic and social development.

ETHIOPIA

Defense Minister Departs for Ustinov Funeral

EA231544 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1000 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Comrade Lieutenant-General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee Politburo member and defense minister, left for Moscow this morning at the head of a delegation of senior Defense Ministry officials to attend the funeral of Comrade Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and defense minister.

Comrade Lt-Gen Tesfaye was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Brigadier General Gebreyes Wolde Hana, WPE Central Committee member and head of political administration in the Revolutionary Ethiopian Armed Forces; senior Army officials; and Soviet embassy counselor in revolutionary Ethiopia. Comrade Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov made great contributions to the existing good relations between the Soviet and Ethiopian armed forces and also toward strengthening relations between the two countries.

50 Ethiopian Troops Reported Killed or Captured

GF211330 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Doha, 21 Dec (QNA) — Thirty Ethiopian soldiers were killed and twenty others were captured in battles that took place yesterday evening between the Ethiopian forces and the Eritrean Liberation Front-The Popular Liberation forces near the town of Barentu in Western Eritrea.

Mr Mohamed Osman Abu Bakr, the front's representative in the Gulf region, who is currently visiting Doha told QNA that these battles took place when the Eritrean rescue caravans were on their way to El Jashe region to deliver rescue materials and food to victims of drought and famine in this region. He added that the Ethiopian planes have continued to raid the liberated Eritrean countryside in spite of the drought within the context of an Ethiopian plan to banish Eritreans and liquidate their cause.

Mengistu Makes Official Visit to GDR

For reportage on the visit of Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile-Mariam to the German Democratic Republic, see the GDR section of the 21 December Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SOMALIA

Ethiopian Attack To Take Somalis by Surprise

EA211248 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] A spokesman for the Somali Ministry of Information and National Guidance today disclosed that the air and ground attacks by the Amharas yesterday, 20 December, on several regions of Somalia is not the first time that the Abyssinians have engaged in such bestial acts, which are timed to coincide with a time when the Somali people are engaged in their national obligations related to the activities concerning the national and local elections.

The spokesman added that the Amharas presumed that this was a time that they could take the Somalis by surprise. The spokesman went on to say that this was nothing new by the Amharas, and is known to the international community, for it will be recalled that on many occasions in the past, the Amharas in their short-sightedness have attacked the Somali nation at such a time.

We are aware of the humilitating defeat suffered by the Abyssinians in 1964, when it launched a large scale attack against Somalia at a time when the Somali people were involved in elections. However, the Abyssinians were always blind to the facts of history. They did not learn their lesson from the defeat — the humiliation and irreparable losses they suffered. Foolishly, they have been driven to repeat the same provocative attacks at a time when Somalia is involved in preparations for the first national and local government elections, and at a time when the party congress is in progress.

It is accordingly obvious, for better or for worse — as has always been the case — that the Somali people, while on the one hand accomplishing their national objectives in the elections, will on the other hand defend their country, independence, unity, sovereignty, flag, religion, and everything else. This is clearly indicated by the defeat and humiliation suffered by the Abyssinians yesterday when they provocatively attacked areas of Somali territory, the spokesman concluded.

Radio Halgan Reports Attack on Barre Troops

EA212036 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Yesterday, 20 December, 1984, units from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces, in full battle gear, launched a very successful attack on General Siad Barre's troops based in Buhodleh district and (Goryalugud) in Togdher region, northern Somalia.

The successful attack launched by the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS was launched against the 32d Battalion of the 3d Brigade of the 26th Division of the regime's loyalist troops stationed in the northern regions. These are soldiers who have yet to realize why they are fighting.

The 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS killed 174 soldiers, wounded another 122, and took 20 prisoners. The loyalist troops of the Mogadishu clique lost 4 122-mm field guns, which were captured, 2 armored personnel carriers, 5 radio military communication sets type R-77, and 254 light weapons were also captured.

The fighters from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces also destroyed a very

large quantity of military hardware. The DFSS units also destroyed three armored personnel carriers. a Fiat truck, and four 120-mm field guns. The DFSS fighters also razed to the ground the bases of the regime's troops and also destroyed all the military equipment, rations, and ammunition. The DFSS fighters also destroyed the local government offices in Buhodleh and the offices of the repressive organs of the Barre regime. Also destroyed at the base were the Barre forces fuel storage tanks in the town.

The gallant fighters of the DFSS succeeded in their attack and achieved their objectives. The DFSS fighters suffered two martyrs and four others wounded. The DFSS also lost one vehicle destroyed by a landmine.

CAMEROON

Biya Returns From Brazzaville Summits

AB212030 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President Paul Biya returned to Yaounde this afternoon from Brazzaville, where he attended the first summit of the Central African Economic Community and the 20th summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa.

CHAD

Habre Returns From Brazzaville Summit

AB221123 Paris AFP in French 1004 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 22 Dec (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre expressed his "great satisfaction" yesterday in Ndjamena on his return from Brazzaville, where he attended the meeting marking the 20th anniversary of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC], on 17-20 December, and the summit of the Economic Community of Central African States on 18 December. [Passage indistinct] which it left, though a founding member, under the pretext that the union did not give enough consideration to the situation of landlocked countries.

President Habre stated that Chad's grievances against UDEAC had been "Looked into by the heads of state during the summit." The Chadian head of state added, "I am convinced that Chad's problems will be solved within UDEAC." Mr Habre also believed that "individually, the states cannot find salvation in the field of development, independence, and security; their salvation lies in unity and solidarity in the face of the selfishness of industrial nations."

Journalists Tour GUNT-Controlled Faya-Largeau

AB212239 Paris AFP in French 1804 GMT 21 Dec 84

[By AFP special correspondent Ali Shoubashy]

[Text] About 18 months after the capture of the palm-grove of Faya-Largeau by the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] forces backed by Libyan troops, the town seems to be leading a normal life. Journalists representing French and British media made the trip from Tripoli to Faya-Largeau aboard a rotor-equipped Fokker bearing the Chadian national colors. Apparently, it is offered by the Libyans for GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei's trips.

On landing on an improvised air strip that serves as an airport, the journalists noticed that it was guarded by an antiaircraft gun, another gun of smaller dimensions mounted on two vehicles, and by about 20 soldiers in uniform with light weapons. During their tour of the palm grove, the journalists in fact did not notice Libyan troops, but only Libyan soldiers with light weapons guarding the former prefecture of Faya-Largeau, now transformed into the residence of Goukouni Oueddei. They even wondered whether the town could resist an armed attack.

Soldiers and militant journalists accompanying the special correspondents pointed out that the GUNT had changed the name of Faya-Largeau to Faya-Abatcha, in honor of Ibrahim Abatcha, founder of Frolinat, who was killed in 1968 in fighting in Central Chad.

The marketplace bustles with people under a bright, warming winter sun. One finds a variety of goods, such as colorful dresses of all sorts, T-shirts, jeans, cigarettes, olive oil, rice, sugar, and incense. The palm grove appears to be well-stocked. During his press conference, Goukouni Oueddei even thanked the Libyans, among others, for the food aid they had sent to northern Chad.

Not far from the marketplace is the animal market [words indistinct] goats, sheep are bought with all sorts of currency: Libyan dinars, French francs, or even dollars. The presence — even the moral presence — of Libya is almost imperceptible in the streets. In fact, the walls are covered with purely Chadian graffiti. Only two small placards in French, which appeared to be old, carried slogans from the Green Book of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

Journalists did not see pictures of the leader of the Libyan revolution; however, on one of the Land-Rovers used in transporting the journalists, a soldier had stuck a picture of former Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Where Libyan influence is greatly felt is in the schools. In fact, the walls of the school yard visited by the journalists, where children of between 7 and 14 attend school, were covered by slogans from the Green Book summarizing the fundamental options of the Libyan revolution. It is quite normal: Libya supplies all the stationery and textbooks in Arabic used in the schools. But that does not prevent the French language from being taught in the same way as Arabic is taught.

Chadian Group Denounces Situation in South

AB220933 Paris AFP in French 0737 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (AFP) — A delegation of Chadian nationals belonging to the "Committee for Struggle Against Repression in Chad" (CLURT), on Friday submitted to Mr Ahmad Allam-Mi, the Chadian ambassador to Paris, a petition denouncing the "situation in which the people of Chad are living under Hissein Habre's dictatorship."

This petition, bearing the signatures of more than 300 persons and a copy of which was given to the press, is against "the threat of war and insecurity posed by the warlords" in southern Chad, where, quoting the CLURT, "peasants are killed on their farms, hundreds of villages have been burned down, and from where thousands of refugees live in misery in neighboring countries." "All this under the pretext of putting an end to all opposition in the country," the CLURT stated.

Receiving this delegation, Mr Allam-Mi, in his statement to AFP, warned the members of the delegation against any attempts to "divide the country" and considered that the situation in southern Chad was being "overplayed." He also asked them why they were not protesting against "repression" by Libyans in the north of the country.

Arrest of CDR Official by Libyans Reaffirmed

AB221157 Paris AFP in French 0741 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (AFP) — Mr Acheikh Ben Omar, the secretary general of the Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), has been arrested and "kept in prison" by the Libyan authorities. This was reaffirmed in a communique on Friday by the CDR delegation in Paris. This communique "formally" denied recent statements made by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the chairman of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT, an armed opposition group to Chadian President Hissein Habre).

Already at the beginning of December, the CDR (a section of the GUNT that broke away) spokesman in Paris, stated that Mr Acheikh Ben Omar was arrested on 4 November by the Libyans and was currently under detention in Fada (northeast Chad). It will be recalled that Mr Goukouni stated, for his part, on Thursday that Mr Acheikh Ben Omar had been in GUNT's hands since 4 November. He added that his arrest resulted in tension with the Libyans. "In order to ease this tension, we promised them that we would liberate him soon," he further said.

(Mr Rakhis Manany, the GUNT defense minister, also stated in Tripoli on Friday that Mr Acheikh Ben Omar had been detained by the GUNT. Mr Acheikh Ben Omar "does not run any risk" and remains "the CDR secretary general," he added).

CONGO

Habre 'Firmly Supports' Congo Mediation

AB220846 Paris AFP in French 0733 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 22 Dec 9AFP) — Chad "firmly supports" Congo in "all its initiatives" toward a reconciliation of the rival Chadian factions, Chadian President Hissein Habre said yesterday in Brazzaville. "I hope you are making progress," he told Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, whose proclaimed objective is to host another meeting of the various Chadian factions.

A first reconciliation meeting of the Chadian factions was held in the Congolese capital last October but was deadlocked over the question of legitimacy of the government, which both Goukouni Oueddei's Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] and Habre's government claim.

Congo's efforts are in "the interest of Chad" and Central Africa, added the Chadian president, whose observations were reported last night by the Congolese official television network. Earlier in the day, Mr Habre met with four leaders of Central Africa: Mr Sassou-Nguesso, Mr Bongo (Gabon), Paul Biya (Cameroon), and Andre Kolingba (CAR). This meeting was an occasion for the participants to "confirm and reconfirm" the support of their respective countries to Congo's mediation in the Chadian conflict, Mr Bongo indicated.

Habre Speaks To Chadians in Congo on Reconciliation

AB231240 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpts] President Hissein Habre yesterday addressed Chadians living in the sister country of Congo who turned out to meet him at our embassy in Brazzaville. The president, in his address, appealed to the Chadian community's sense of reason: National reconciliation remains the priority of the government because Chadians opposed to his government are brothers. But they should be realistic and understand that the supreme interest of Chad is primarily the preservation of its sovereignty.

In spite of their divisive tendencies, the Libyans will never succeed in dividing Chad. This is how the head of state ended his address to our compatriots in the Congo, thus cutting short any Libyan propaganda. Let us listen to President Hissein Habre.

[Begin Habre recording] In spite of their betrayal, we do not want to turn away Chadians. We are extending our hands to them. We are asking them: Brothers, what exactly do you want? Let us come together again. The country is for all of us. You have your place and your rights like all of us in this country. What are you asking for? What do you want? Let us meet and discuss this. Then, well dressed — because they are maintained by the petrodollar — they come with suitcases to say they are the government and want to speak as such. [words indistinct]

During the last Brazzaville conference, there were 19 ('antagonistic) factions [words indistinct]. They published a communique in a piece of paper they call a newspaper and they said they were a movement opposed to the Government of Chad. So they came here with their suitcases to say that they wanted to become ministers, presidents — because there is no government in Chad — now they want to come and form a government. This means all 19 factions want to divide Chad into 19 pieces [laughter] and each wants to [words indistinct] in his suitcase.

All this is happening because Libya does not want peace. Because when they came here, Libya told them that by December its soldiers would be in Ndjamena and that they should not waste their time in talking with Hissein Habre's government because it [Libya] had succeeded in deceiving France. It had managed to have the French troops evacuate Chad while Libyan troops were still there and by December they would be in Ndjamena. [applause] And in fact, all these people really believed that very soon they would be in Ndjamena; therefore, they did not need to make the talks progress.

This is how the last meeting in Brazzaville — despite all that people say — became deadlocked. That is the truth behind it all. They cover this with propaganda and mere words. They pretend to have a program of action and make statements [words indistinct]. But we will continue to extend a brotherly and peaceful hand to them. In fact, we continue to have contacts with them. [end recording]

GABON

National Assembly Approves 1985 Budget

AB211605 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1230 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The second ordinary session of the Gabonese National Assembly ended in Libreville this morning. The closing ceremony, known as the budgetary session, was directed by George Rawiri, the first vice prime minister. In the first speech, Augustin Mboma, speaker of the Gabonese National Assembly, took stock of the current mandate of the National Assembly, which expires officially next February with legislative elections all over the Gabonese territory. Mr Mboma also presented the Gabonese 1985 budget, which was unanimously approved by acclamation by the national assembly to the tune of 679 billion CFA, which represents an increase of over 3 percent. Listen to the observations of the speaker:

[Begin Mboma recording] Though that percentage is modest in regard to the monetary erosion we are facing, it represents a success indeed at a time when many prestigious countries are faced with the alternative of bankruptcy or giving up their sovereignty in the economic and financial sectors by accepting the overgrowing and exacting criteria of the IMF.

The success is even more outstanding that out of the 679 billion CFA voted under the budget for expenditure, 325 billion CFA will be for development projects and 135 billion CFA for debt servicing which, as you know, also represents investments. This means more than 67 percent of the 1985 budget is meant for the pursuit of development projects and for the preparation for the period when there will be no revenue from oil.

In fact, our oil-based revenue in 1984 rate of the dollar, which is incidentally unfavorable for us when it comes to the cost of our imports and the servicing of our debts, in the medium term, we can only expect a stagnation or even a fall in this revenue. [end recording]

RWANDA

Ex-Minister Sentenced on Embezzlement Charges

AB220930 Paris AFP in French 0744 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Kigali, 22 Dec (AFP) — Felicien Gatabazi, Rwanda's former minister of social affairs and community development, and several former senior officials accused in 1983 of embezzling funds destined to the refugees coming from Uganda, were sentenced on Thursday to prison terms ranging from 1 to 5 years and to pay various fines. The tribunal, which condemned Mr Gatabasi to 5 years imprisonment and to pay a very heavy fine, also demanded that all the convicts pay back the equivalent of the embezzlement fund to the Ministry of Social Affairs.

ZAIRE

Cameroon President Stops Over in Kinshasa

AB211526 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1440 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 21 Dec (AZAP) — Cameroonian President Paul Biya today made a technical stopover in Kinshasa. He was coming from Brazzaville, where he took part in the deliberations of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa and the constitutive phase of the Economic Community of Central African States summit, which took place in the Congolese capital.

On arrival, at 1445 in Kinshasa, he was welcomed by Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, his Zairian counterpart, with whom he will hold talks on Cameroonian and Zairian issues.

Chadian Commando Battalion Completes Training

AB231030 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1428 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 22 Dec (AZAP) — A second Chadian commando battalion this week completed its training at the Kotakoli training center, northern Zaire in the equator region, the ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY (AZAP) said on Saturday.

The 420 elements of the battalion last Friday received their commando certificates from Vice Admiral Lomponda wa Botende, the secretary of state for national defense and territorial security, in the presence of the Chadian ambassador to Zaire, AZAP added.

A first battalion of the Chadian Armed Forces (FANT) was trained at the Kotakoli center last summer. The Zairian head of state last August went to Kotakoli to hand out the end-of-training certificates to the commandos, in the presence of the Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou and of FANT Commander in Chief General Idriss Deby.

BURKINA

Envoy to Nigeria on Reduced Food Production

AB221108 Lagos NAN in English 1002 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec. 21 (NAN) — The drought in Burkina Faso has reduced its annual food production by about 275,000 tonnes, the country's charge d'affaires in Nigeria, Mr Alexandre Bambara, said today in Lagos.

Mr Bambara, told a news conference that the situation was "still very bad." He said that the 16-month old administration of Capt Thomas Sankara had succeeded in reducing hospital charges, school fees and house-rent. Mr Bambara also said that the government had taken over land which, he said, used to "provide fortunes" for speculators.

GHANA

Delegation Returns From Talks in Senegal

AB211540 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Ghana's delegation to the third ministerial meeting of the joint Ghana-Senegal commission for cooperation, held in Senegal, has returned home. It was led by the secretary for the interior, Kofi Djin. Speaking to newsmen on arrival, he said the meeting discussed wide areas of cooperation, including cultural exchange, tourism, agriculture, trade, social welfare, and telecommunications. He said both countries agreed to exchange cultural troupes to participate in national celebrations of each country. Mr Djin said programs and proposals were made on tourism. Both countries agreed to attend the second tourist exhibition and conference of ministers of tourism to be held in Accra next year. Sporting activities between Ghana and Senegal will also be increased.

On agriculture, Mr Djin announced that Ghana has pledged to supply day-old chicks to Senegal in return for cattle for breeding purposes. He said there was a joint declaration which seeks to bring both countries together through the pan-African telecommunications network. The declaration also calls for increased trade between the two countries within the framework of ECOWAS. Other issues discussed included the role of women and the youth in the developmental process and the role of rural banks and cooperatives in natural development. Mr Djin said the delegation delivered a special message from the Provisional National Defense Council chairman to the Senegalese president, Adbou Diouf.

IVORY COAST

National Assembly Adopts 1985 Budget

AB221245 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 22-23 Dec 84 p 29

[Excerpt] With 418.13 billion CFA, the general budget for 1985 has been reduced by 2.5 percent as compared to the 1984 budget (428.85 billion), while 87.64 has been earmarked for the Special Investment and Equipment Budget with a reduction of about 63.3 percent compared to the previous one (239.109 billion). These are figures of the 1985 budget which the National Assembly voted yesterday morning. These figures show clearly that 1985 will be marked by austerity in the field of public finances. The budget was drafted in a context of economic recovery and difficult international situation.

MALI

UDPM To Hold Second Congress 26-28 Mar 85

AB221431 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The second ordinary congress of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] will be held on 26-28 March 1985. The dates were specified in a circular letter issued by the UDPM secretary general in compliance with Article 14 of the statutes and Article 13 of the standing orders of the UDPM.

Draft Cultural Agreement Signed With Cuba

AB211620 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] A draft agreement on cultural exchange between the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Cuba for 1985-1986 was signed in Bamako last Friday. Under the draft agreement, the two countries are to cooperate in the education, training, sports, arts and cultural fields through exchanges of delegations and experiences between arts and literary institutions and organizations. The two countries will also exchange radio and television programs and will cooperate in the field of cinema for further strengthening the links of cooperation existing between the two countries.

The draft agreement was signed for Mali by Bassari Toure, deputy director general of international cooperation, and for Cuba by His Excellency Eduardo Barbin Martin, ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Mali.

NIGERIA

Army Orders Modern, 'Sophisticated' Equipment

AB230955 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The Federal Government has placed orders for the supply of modern and sophisticated equipment for the armed forces. This was made known in Kaduna yesterday by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, at the passing-out parade of the Army, Navy and Air Force cadets of the Nigerian Defense Academy, NDA. He said that the present administration had embarked on the rationalization of the nation's defense expenditure with special emphasis on mobility, efficiency, and self-reliance. To this end, the (?stability) of the defense industry would be improved to enable it to meet the nation's requirements.

Maj Gen Idiagbon pointed out that the government had taken steps to gear up training activities at all levels to enchance the combat readiness of soldiers. He stressed that the effectiveness of the foreign policy of any nation depended on the extent of its military strength. The chief of staff remarked that the aim of making the NDA a full-fledged degree-awarding military institution had become a reality. It is hoped that by December 1988 the first graduates, regular (?combat-fit) officers, will be commissioned by the NDA.

Maj Gen Idiagbon explained to the graduates to help their senior colleagues to redeem the nation from the abyss of moral decadence. He told them that their training at the NDA was to lay a solid foundation for the future.

A Radio Nigeria state house correspondent in Kaduna reports that the cadets received their certificates and were commissioned before a collective oath was taken by the graduates. The graduates were made of 54 from the Army, 31 from the Navy, and 30 from the Air Force.

The chief of staff is scheduled to address officers of the 1st Mechanized Division today before returning to Lagos.

Oil Minister Comments on OPEC Meeting

AB231215 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 23 (AFP) — A 50 cent increase in the price of heavy crude oils proposed by OPEC is not nearly enough, and Nigeria will argue over differentials when OPEC talks resume this week, Nigerian Oil Minister Tam David-West said here this weekend.

The minister was speaking late yesterday on his return from the adjourned Geneva meeting of ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to consult with Nigerian head of state Major-General Muhammadu Buhari before the talks resume, mainly on a proposal to audit OPEC sales, on Thursday.

Referring to differentials charged for different oil qualities, with heavy oil being cheaper than light, the minister said "the disparity is not realistic any more."

"The pricing range is too much, there has to be a closing of the gap," Mr David-West added. "The Arab proposal is a cosmetic measure. Nigeria will go for bolder steps."

The minister explained that the problem concerned over-pricing of light qualities. This pricing structure was normal a few years ago, and Nigeria had obeyed OPEC agreements by increasing the price of Nigerian light, which made heavy oils relatively cheaper. But new refining technology meant the reverse was now the case, and heavy oils should be more expensive. Producers of heavy oils should therefore increase their prices.

With regard to one of the main items on the Geneva agenda — how to ensure that members stick to agreements on pricing and production so as to hold up the weak world oil market — the minister commented: "We have been accusing each other and pointing accusing fingers for not behaving properly. They said we were over producing." He continued: "Nigeria's position was made clear. We continue to be, if not the most, one of the most disciplined." He said Nigeria did not "discount" and did not conclude barter deals. In addition, it was now officially recognised that Nigeria's quota was 1.45 million barrels a day — a figure not totally taken up on average during 1984. Expert sources here estimate that Nigeria's average output this year would be about this figure, although the December level could exceed 1.6 million barrels a day.

The minister said, "I have challenged them to find any Nigerian official oil on the spot market," adding, "we have more cutomers than oil." Nigeria is known mainly as a producer of light oils, but the minister ruled out the idea of forming a cartel of light crude producers, saying that OPEC was a mosaic and that in a mosaic one had to harmonise the tiles. He then said that "in OPEC we have to harmonise the pricing structure."

Strongly criticising North Sea producers, which are not members of OPEC, the minister said: "For the first time hard words were said against the North Sea. There was unanimous condemnation of the type of games that the North Sea producers play. A price war would be lost by the North Sea."

Referring to the possible creation of an overall OPEC auditing body to ensure respect for OPEC agreements, and the possible holding of a summit of OPEC heads of state, Mr David-west said: "Self-restraint is the only panacea for discipline." On the outcome of the Geneva talks so far, he said ministers began by accusing each other, but after washing their dirty linen in public for the first time, ministers adjourned on a more serious note. They now knew exactly what they had done wrong, had parted on very good terms, and would certainly find solutions to their problems, Mr David-West said.

TOGO

Cabinet Adopts 1985 Draft Budget 21 Dec

AB211705 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 1 Dec 84

[Text] An extraordinary Cabinet meeting took place this morning at the presidential palace under the chairmanship of General Gnassingbe Eyadema, the founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT] and the president of the Republic of Togo. During the meeting, the Cabinet gave a third reading to the 1985 draft budget and adpoted it. The budget, which is balanced in revenue and expenditure at 81,890,014,000 CFA francs compared to 76,790,550,000 CFA francs in 1984 with an increase of 6.65 percent, is clearly marked by its very great stability and austerity. In this way, the Togolese Government has decided to continue its policy of rigor and austerity in order to withstand — in conformity with the recommendations of the sixth national council meeting of the RPT — the nefarious effects of the difficult international economic situation which has hit the developing countries hard.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Dismisses Uige Assistant Commissar

MB231900 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of the People's Republic of Angola, has dismissed Jose Almeida Dias from his post as Uige assistant provincial commissar through a decree issued in Luanda yesterday. In another decree, the Angolan head of state appointed (Georgina Anzine Angueve) to the post of Uige assistant provincial commissar.

47 UNITA Members Killed in Brewery Attack

MB220835 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The National Security and Defense Forces yesterday killed 47 UNITA bandits when a group of this puppet organization desperately attempted to sabotage the CUCA brewery in Huambo. Another 71 criminals were captured by the National Defense and Security Forces during hot pursuit operations against the bandits.

The people's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, the workers organized in the People's Defense Organizaton, and the popular militia frustrated the enemy intentions and forced the bandits to flee in disarray, leaving behind various types of arms and ammunition. Among the captured bandits there is (Vintura Ngunga) aged 23, from Balombo, who said that the objective of the attack was to steal beer and destroy the factory.

MOZAMBIQUE

Further Reportage on Machel, Dos Santos Talks

Talks on 'Bandits' Continue

MB211218 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola were still meeting late this morning during the second session of the talks, which began at about 1000. Armed banditry and their mentors is the only topic on the agenda.

When talks resumed this morning President Samora Machel referred to the involvement of certain powers with armed banditry in both countries. Do they want to find a master for us or do they want to continue to be the masters, President Samora Machel asked.

Both Mozambique and Angola have accused third parties of blocking the path for the establishment of peace in southern Africa, which is necessary for the harmonious development of the two countries. The presence of Israelis among the armed bandit instructors was mentioned yesterday by an armed bandit. (Helder Nhacale) said he received parachute training from Israeli instructors in South Africa and that there were also mercenaries from capitalist countries. He said this yesterday during a ceremony presenting armed bandits and weapons captured by our Armed Forces.

The situation in Angola is no less worrisome. As in Mozambique the puppet group known as UNITA has been carrying out banditry actions. Murder, terror, plunder of people's property, destruction of the social and economic infrastructure, and other actions characterize the armed bandits in both countries.

The talks between Presidents Samora Machel of Mozambique and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola are being held some 9 months after the signing of the Nkomati Accord between Mozambique and South Africa and the Lusaka compromise between South Africa and Angola. Both documents had raised hopes for peace, although they did not mean that military action would be neglected. The latter is the main course of action for the extermination of banditry because armed bandits both in Mozambique and Angola have been trained, financed, and armed by South Africa. Yet, banditry is continuing due to the violation of both accords. Mozambique has already announced that it will soon disclose the forces involved in such violation. Moreover, Angola has accused South Africa of insisting on supporting UNITA as well as maintaining its forces in southern Angola.

How to eliminate armed banditry is thus the focal point of the talks that President Samora Machel has been holding since yesterday with his Angolan counterpart Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The Angolan [as heard] presidential delegation includes Jacinto Veloso, minister in the Presidency for Economic Affairs and head of the Mozambican delegation to the meeting with South Africa. The Angolan delegation includes Minister of the Interior Alexandre Rodrigues Kito, who has been heading this country's delegation to the talks with South Africa and the United States on southern Africa.

Other Mozambican government officials present at the talks are Minister of Foreign Affairs Joaquim Chissano and Minister of Security Sergio Vieira. The Angolan delegation also includes Venancio de Moura, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Afonso Van-Dunem, secretary for external relations of the MPLA-Labor Party; and Antonio Jacinto, secretary for control of the MPLA-Labor Party.

Talks Conclude

MB211446 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] Presidents Samora Machel and Jose Eduardo dos Santos this afternoon concluded the talks they had begun yesterday. The talks were characterized by common viewpoints on the major issues of the struggle against imperialism and its agents, the armed bandits and pursuance of the policy of socialism for peace and detente, particularly in southern Africa. The two presidents exchanged information on the implementation of their peace

initiatives as well as on the ongoing imperialist destabilization maneuvers and agreed on future strategy.

President Samora Machel expressed his support for the proposals of the People's Republic of Angola contained in the platform of the general negotiations now underway between the governments of Angola and South Africa.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the Angolan head of state expressed his solidarity with the efforts being undertaken by Mozambique to ensure the full implementation of the Nkomati Accord by South Africa as well as with the struggle of the Mozambican people for the elimination of armed bandits.

After the talks, the Angolan president, accompanied by President Samora Machel, watched a military march-past by two companies of the Mozambique Armed Forces. Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, is expected to leave Maputo for home this afternoon at the end of his working visit to Mozambique.

Communique Issued To Press

MB220800 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Dec 84

["Press communique" issued in Maputo on 21 December at the conclusion of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos' visit to Mozambique]

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and President of the People's Republic of Angola, made a working visit to the People's Republic of Mozambique from 20 to 21 December 1984, accompanied by a high-level party and government delegation, at the invitation of Samora Moises Machel, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Their talks were held in a cordial atmosphere characterized by a high degree of fraternity and a similarity of views on the main issues of the struggle against imperialism and its agents, the armed bandits.

On the pursuance of the common socialist policy for peace and detente, particularly in southern Africa, the two Angolan and Mozambican revolutionary leaders exchanged information on the implementation of Angolan and Mozambican initiatives for peace and the current imperialist destabilizing maneuvers. They also agreed on a strategy to be followed. They agreed that these types of consultations will be intensified in the interest of the struggle toward strengthening and consolidating national independence, economic and social development, and building of socialism in the two countries.

Analyzing the relations between the Frelimo party and MPLA-Labor Party, the two presidents expressed their satisfaction with the mutual trust and friendship existing between the two fraternal parties. They noted with satisfaction the positive development of exchanges of experiences between the two parties and mass democratic organizations, as well as the initiatives for good understanding and fraternal relations between the two peoples carried out through cultural and sporting exchanges. Both presidents stressed that the two parties will continue to encourage the intensification of unity and solidarity between the two peoples, parties, and governments.

The president of the People's Republic of Mozambique expressed his support for the proposals of the People's Republic of Angola contained in the platform for general negotiations currently underway between the goverments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of South Africa. The Mozambican president congratulated the Angolan people and their Armed Forces on the victories won in the struggle against the UNITA armed puppet gangsters, and other counterrevolutionaries.

The president of the People's Republic of Angola expressed his solidarity with the efforts of the People's Republic of Mozambique toward ensuring the full application of the Nkomati Accord by South Africa and with the tenacious struggle of the Mozambican people for the elimination of the armed bandits, lackeys of imperialism. The Angolan president hailed the Mozambican people and their Armed Forces for the victories they have won. The two presidents reaffirmed their solidarity with the liberation struggle of the people of Namibia and South Africa led by SWAPO and the ANC, respectively.

The president of the People's Republic of Angola invited the president of the People's Republic of Mozambique to make an official state visit to the People's Republic of Angola. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and satisfaciton and the dates will be decided through diplomatic channels. Maputo, 21 December 1984.

Dos Santos Departs

MB211806 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of Angola, left Maputo for home this afternoon at the end of a 24-hour visit to Mozambique. On his departure, Jose Eduardo dos Santos was seen off at Maputo International Airport by President Samora Machel and senior party and state officials.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha Denies ANC Talks With MP's Planned

MB231210 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 23 Dec 84 p 2

[By Neil Hooper and Hans Pienaar]

[Text] The State President, Mr P.W. Botha, yesterday scotched rumours of possible talks between the Government and the banned African National Congress. Speaking as leader of National Party, he said it was absolutely untrue that any talks with the ANC were due to take place in Lusaka in January. He rejected claims that four National Party MPs were planning such talks.

In a statement to the *SUNDAY TIMES* he said: "It is not Government Policy to negotiate with organisations engaged in promoting violence in South Africa. "No parliamentarian of the Nationalist government will be allowed to do so. We are always willing to talk to groups of people in South Africa who follow the road of constitutional development, but not to those who are fostering violence."

Government sources said his statement could be taken as a warning to anyone in the National Party caucus who was promoting plans to hold such talks to abandon them. This would also appear to be a warning to a sector of National Party supporters who appear to be trying to drum up support for talks with the ANC.

The speculation about such talks was strengthened by three developments: a report that the four MP's were not named, and the report was sourced to an unnamed Dutch diplomat who visited South Africa recently; a Human Sciences Research Council survey showed that 43 percent of whites interviewed favoured government contact with the ANC, although 44 percent were against such a move; an academic survey showed that most students at homeland universities supported the ANC and its imprisoned leader, Nelson Mandela.

Earlier this month the Johannesburg morning newspaper, *BEELD*, published articles about the ANC after a five-hour interview with representatives of the organisation in Lusaka — *BEELD* also called for talks between the Government and the ANC.

The interview was arranged by the Centre for Intergroup Studies in Cape Town, which has more projects in the offing to promote talks between Goverment supporters and "extra-parlimanetary" groups.

At a meeting in August of the centre, Mr Wynand Malan, Nationalist MP for Randburg, said in answer to a question that talks between any government MP and the ANC would have to be in a strictly private capacity. However, the head of the centre, Professor H W van der Merwe, denied any knowledge of a visit by MPS to Lusaka. Talks would have to be on neutral ground and only after the "right climate" had been created, he said.

Botha Visits to East Africa 'Confirmed'

MB230700 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] The South African Department of Foreign Affairs has confirmed that the country's minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, visited parts of east Africa in the past week. A spokesman for the department would not name the countries visited. He said Mr Botha has explained the latest events with regard to the security situation in Mozambique to the governments of the countries visited.

Mr Botha said that specific allegations put to the east African Governments concerning assistance being rendered to certain elements opposed to the Mozambican Government were denied categorically by those governments. Besides these matters, economic and trade affairs were also discussed.

Another Police Raid on Media

MB211922 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1900 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] There has been more security police action against the media. The offices of the Cape Town Community Video Research Association were raided earlier this week and 39 video cassettes were removed. The raid is alleged to have been connected to a swoop on the offices of the British International Television News Agency in Johannesburg.

A spokesperson for Community Video says the search warrant produced by police indicated that criminal charges were being investigated. All the video cassettes seized have since been returned, and the spokesperson says the police told him they did not find what they were looking for. The police have confirmed the raid.

Police Official Says Terrorism Incidents Dropped

MB211712 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] The police say the drop in the number of cases of terrorism experienced this year can be ascribed to successes by the police force and the work of the security police in particular. The acting commissioner of police, Lieutenant General Hennie de Wet, told our Pretoria news staff that the tracking down and apprehension of terrorists and the seizure of terrorist weapons contributed directly to the drop in incidents of terrorism.

He said another important contributing factor was the signing of the Nkomati Accord, which had deprived terrorists of an important infiltration route. Gen de Wet said it was obvious that the ANC did not possess the infrastructure it claimed to have.

He said the unrest which began in September had made great demands on the manpower position of the police. Expenditure in this connection totalled about 7 million rands so far. Despite factors such as the poor economy, which had led to an increase in crime, the increase during the 1983-84 financial year had been restricted to 1.64 percent.

Eight Held on Treason Charges Apply for Bail

MB211716 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Dec 84

[Text] An application for bail for eight people being held on charges of high treason heard in the Durban Magistrate's Court today will be answered by the state on 15 January. In his application for bail, the legal representative of the eight, advocate Ishmail Mohammed, said the men undertook to report to a police station every day, to hand in their passports, and to forfeit their bail money and freedom if they did not comply with the bail conditions.

The men being held are Mr Archie Gumede, Mr George Sewpersadhl, Mr M.J. Naidoo, Mr Mewa Ramgobin, Mr Paul David, Dr Essop Jassat, Mr Curtis Nkondo, and Mr Aubrey Mokoena.

ZIMBABWE

UANC Seeking Refuge in UK High Commission Fails

MB240538 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] *THE HERALD* reports that three members of the UANC [United African National Congress] recently tried to seek refuge in the British High Commission in Harare, but were persuaded to leave after failing to substantiate ciaims that their lives were in danger from ZANU-PF supporters. It is understood that the three went into the High Commission's offices at (Stanley) Avenue with suitcases of clothing, and claimed that supporters of the ruling party were threatening them. The incident has been confirmed by the British high commissioner, Mr Martin Ewans.

PLO Special Envoy Arrives With Message

MB230550 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 22 Dec 84

[Text] A special envoy in charge of the African affairs in the PLO, Comrade (Al-Jafi Salman), arrived in Harare last night for an official visit to Zimbabwe. Comrade (Jafi), who is accompanied by Comrade (Sania Bekkah) will deliver a special message to the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, from the PLO chairman, Comrade Yasir 'Arafat. Comrade (Jafi) will also brief Zimbabwe on the latest developments in the Middle East, and in particular, the latest meeting of the Palestine National Council.

Gulf Buying USSR Arms

MB240715 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 24 Dec 84

[Text] The Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, envoy in charge of African affairs, Comrade (Al-Jafi Salman) says many Persian Gulf states are now buying their arms from the Soviet Union instead of the United States. Comrade (Al-Jafi) told *THE HERALD* yesterday that the move is an indication that Arab states have lost faith in American policy in the Middle East. United States policy in the Middle East favors Zionist Israel.

Comrade (Al-Jafi), who arrived in Zimbabwe on Friday, said he would brief government leaders about the recent meeting of the Palestine National Council in the Jordanian capital Amman. The Palestine National Council is the Palestinian government in exile. The PLO envoy also said since 1972 the PLO has estabilised 91 embassies and 23 of these are in Africa. Comrade (Al-Jafi) has already been to Zambia, and he will make similar visits to other African countries.